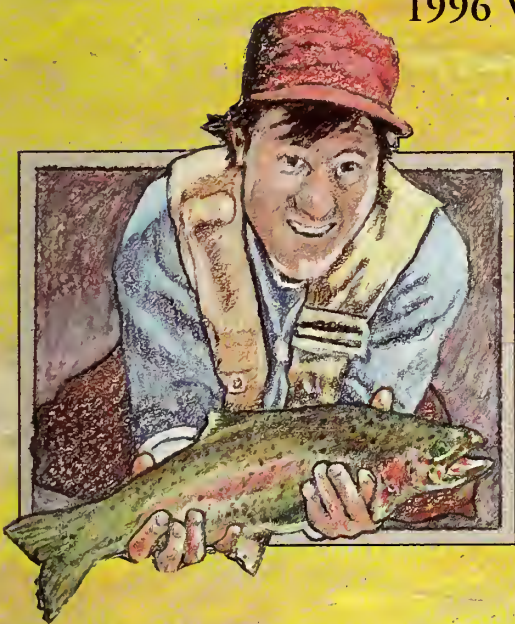


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CUSTER COUNTRY

MONTANA

1996 Vacation Guide — Free. Take One.



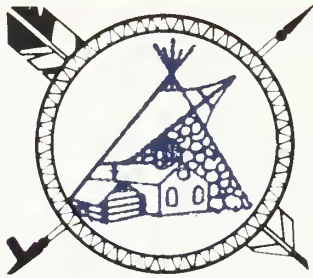
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William F. Ladd

1996



**60 Miles East of Custer Battlefield on Highway 212 -
the shortest route between the Black Hills and Yellowstone Park!**



**St. Labre Indian School
Ashland, Montana**

Visit Historic St. Labre Indian Mission & School



St. Labre Indian School made a humble beginning in 1884 with the construction of a log cabin school operated by four Ursuline Sisters. Today, St. Labre is responsible for the welfare and education of nearly 700 Indian children.

▲ *The tipi of the Plains Indians inspired the architecture of the St. Labre Chapel. The great wooden beam that runs through the ceiling skyward, rests in the "smoke hole" opening. On either side of this great cross beam are beautiful stained glass windows.*

Cheyenne Indian Museum

Located on the Mission grounds, our museum features an extensive collection of rare and historically-significant artifacts from Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Sioux, and several other tribes.

Items on display include:

- Paintings
- Beadwork
- Quillwork
- Traditional Indian regalia
- Authentic Indian clothing, tools, weapons
- Kachina dolls
- Pottery



▲ *For the processional cross of St. Labre Church, Christ (the man and savior) is represented by a beautifully carved figure of the Cheyenne dog soldier and sun dancer.*



▲ *This Cheyenne love flute was carved by Grover Wolf Voice.*

Hardin, Montana Presents...

'Custer's Last Stand' & 'Heart of the West'



Photo: Craig Warren



Photo: Craig Warren



Photo: Milt Wester

Enjoy the sights and excitement of Southeastern Montana from the comfort of your living room. To help in planning your trip, write for your copy of "Hardin, Montana: In the Heart of the American West." This exciting 13 minute video illustrates the sights that are waiting for you: from the Little Bighorn Battlefield to the splendor of 70 mile long Bighorn Canyon. To order your copy of this exciting video fill out the order blank below. Also available is "Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment" where a cast of hundreds re-create Custer's last battle with the Sioux and Cheyenne. (Use the order form below)

For Details on Hardin, Little Bighorn Days and Re-enactment, See pages 81-92

Historic Hardin & Big Horn County



In The Heart Of The American West

HOTELS & ACCOMMODATIONS

- Five motels
- Bed & Breakfast
- Restaurants
- Fort Custer 9 hole golf course

HARDIN COMMUNITY CENTER

An indoor 25-meter swimming pool, children's pool, sauna, and workout area.

KIDS WORLD PLAYGROUND

A distinctive all-wooden playground designed by a prominent builder who originated the concept.

CAMPGROUNDS

- 3 in Hardin
- Fort Smith
- Other locations along Bighorn River
- 5 fishing accesses to Bighorn River

CASH MACHINE

ATM at First Interstate Bank and Wagner's Travel Shoppe in Hardin

ATTRACTIONS

- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (formerly Custer Battlefield)
- Custer National Cemetery
- Rosebud Battlefield
- Chief Plenty Coups State Park
- Yellowtail Dam
- Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
- Boat dock and marina at Bighorn Canyon
- Hayfield Battlefield
- Big Horn County Historical Museum
- Coal Mine Tours
- Bighorn River
- City Parks

Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ Zip: _____

Please Specify
Standard VCR Format ☐
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ITEM ORDERED	QUANT.	PRICE	AMOUNT
Hardin, In the Heart of the American West	_____	\$10.00	_____
Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment	_____	\$20.00	_____
Shipping & Handling	_____	_____	_____
Total Amount Due	_____	_____	_____

Shipping & Handling
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1st Video\$3.50
Each Additional Video\$1.00
Foreign Sales:
1st Video\$5.00
Each Additional Video\$1.00
Country where video will be shown _____

☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Make checks payable to: Hardin Chamber of Commerce

Mail to: Hardin Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture; 21 East 4th Street;
Hardin, Montana 59034 U.S.A.

Custer Country, Inc.
Rte. 1, Box 1206A
Hardin, MT 59034
(406) 665-1671
1-800-346-1876

How to Use This Guide

Custer Country, Inc. welcomes you to the southeastern tourism region of Montana, comprising 36,500 square miles, having 360 miles of interstate highway, 950 miles of paved state roads and who knows how many miles of country roads.

Here is how to find your way through this vacation guide. Major travel arteries of the region follow along I-90, I-94, and Highway 212. Lots of the fun, scenery and attractions highlighted in the guide are off the beaten path, however.

Therefore, we guide you through the region in a serpentine pattern, starting with easternmost Wibaux on I-94 and ending with westernmost Laurel on I-90. Our pages take you from town to town, telling you about what there is to see and to do in each one.

Topics of general interest throughout the region, maps and charts are included to help you find out more about your special interests.



President John Trangmoe
Glendive



Vice President Charlene
Steinmetz, Hardin

Cover design by William Ladd
Laurel, Montana

Custer Country

A Publication of the Custer Country Tourism Region

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Montana's
Custer Country

The Logo for Custer Country, Inc. was designed by Donna Fanyak, Roundup, Montana. The double C's represent the close bond of the 13 counties and two Indian Reservations that make up this special tourism region.

—Custer Country Vacation Guide—

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Write or phone for more information.

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BILLINGS, MONTANA



PASSPORT TO THE LEGENDARY WEST

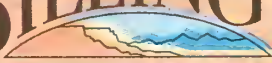
Begin your journey with western lore: where Custer met his fate and Crazy Horse prevailed at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, just an hour away.

Discover spectacular scenery at Yellowstone National Park, christened by Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt. Take in fishing, horseback riding, hiking, biking, rafting, and skiing, year-round.

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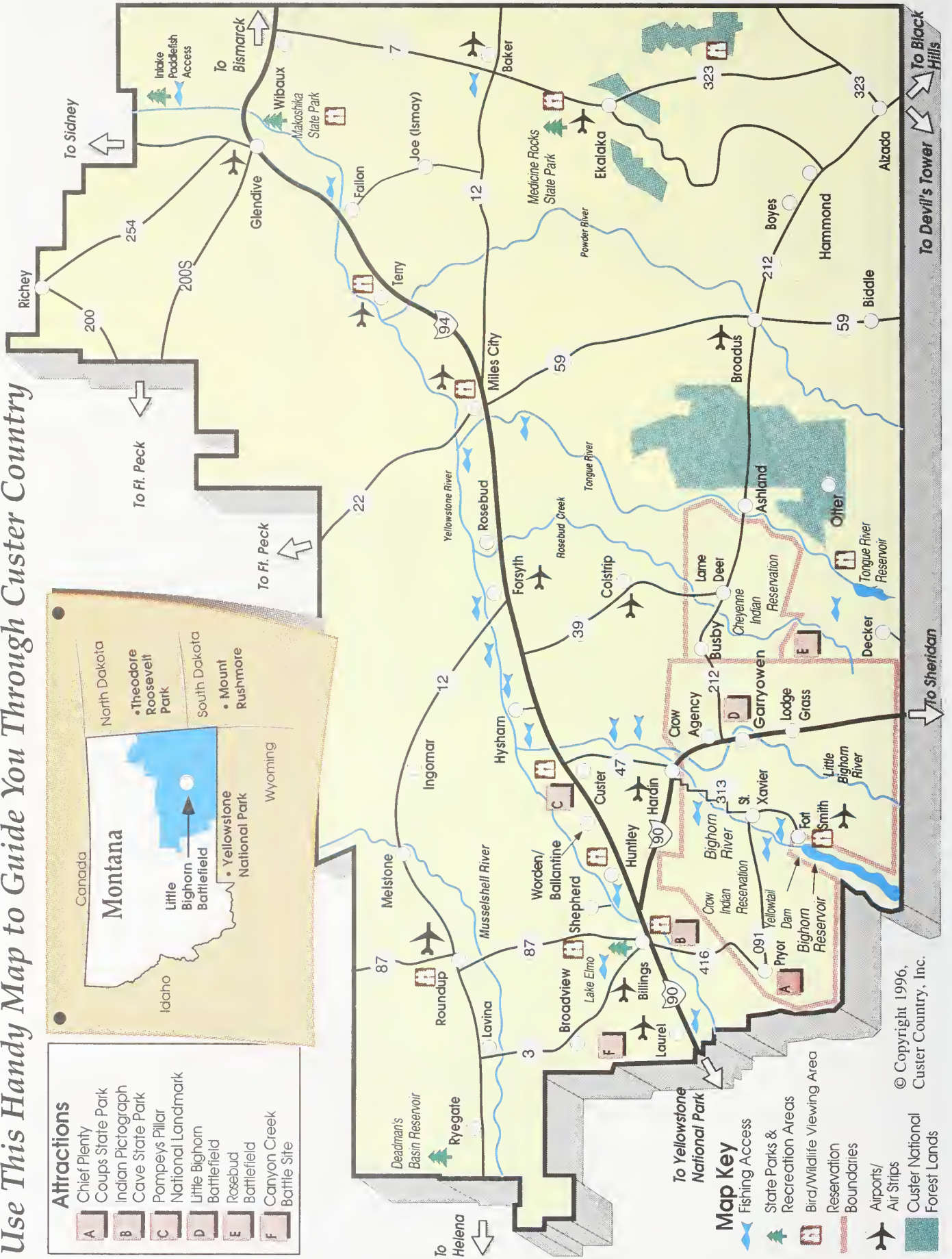
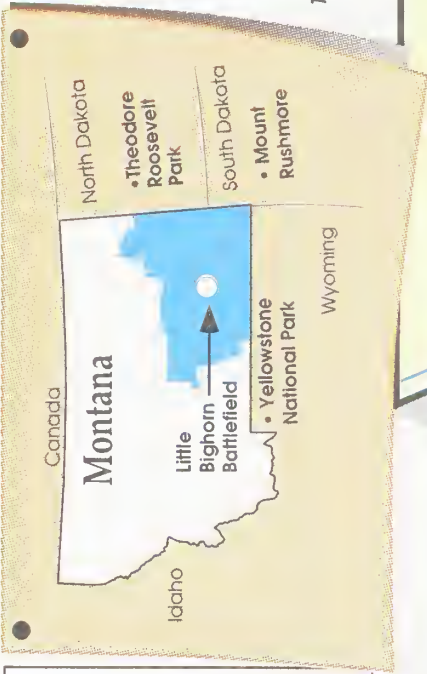
Write or call for FREE information about your Passport to the Legendary West:

Billings Area Chamber of Commerce, CVC
P.O. Box 31177, Dept. 105
Billings, Montana 59107
1-800-735-2635 Ext. 5

BILLINGS

Passport to the *Legendary* West

Use This Handy Map to Guide You Through Custer Country

- Attractions**
- A** Chief Plenty Coups State Park
 - B** Indian Pictograph Cave State Park
 - C** Pompeys Pillar
 - D** National Landmark Little Bighorn Battlefield
 - E** Rosebud Battlefield
 - F** Canyon Creek Battle Site



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*Juicy
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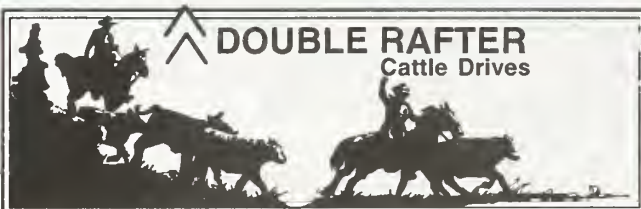
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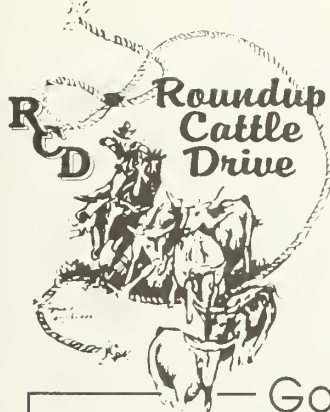
Phone/Fax (406) 245-6070





The premiere vacation in the West is a cattle drive or ranch vacation. You can arrive as a greenhorn and leave as a drover and wrangler. In the process, you'll eat great western cooking and see some of God's prettiest country.

Lana K. Smith Photo



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Unique Native American lifestyles from the Plains of Montana. - 60 min. VHS

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1994 Crow Fair & Pow Wow	60 min.	\$17.95
American Indian Teepees Crow & Cheyenne Style	45 min.	\$19.95
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Montana High Country Trails	58 min.	\$19.95

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Hardin, Montana 59034



Reflections of Custer's Last Stand



The battle of The Little Bighorn continues to be one of the most dramatic battles in American History. *Reflections of Custer's Last Stand*, by renowned artist Jeanie Southworth, depicts events that led to The Campaign of 1876. Ms. Southworth's montage unfolds as a visual scroll and takes the viewer on a historical journey from Custer's meeting with the Southern Cheyenne in 1869, to his death in 1876.

Represented are portraits of Lt. Col. Custer, family members who perished at his side and officers who were associated with The Campaign. Also captured are images of Custer's Crow Scouts and many of the great War Chiefs who were victorious at The Little Bighorn.

A complete description will accompany each print in the form of a scroll. Prints will be signed and numbered by the artist and will include a Certificate of Authenticity and Title.

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MONTANA CENTENNIAL TRAIN COACH IN WIBAUX

Wibaux has one of seven of these cars in the state which are designated as official Travel Host Information Centers for the traveling public and people interested in local and area history.

The centennial name comes from the observance of Montana becoming a Territory in 1864. One hundred years later in 1964 — the State of Montana sent a centennial train from Montana to New York City to the World's Fair. The cars were on display at the fair as a manner of advertising our state.

When visiting Eastern Montana, plan a day or two in

Historic Wibaux

Gateway to Montana on Interstate 94

- ★ Travel Information Center
- ★ Free Public Picnic Areas
- ★ Easy Access Restrooms
- ★ Easy Off & On Exits
- ★ Historic Buildings
- ★ Free Museum

For Information Write:
Wibaux County Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 159
 Wibaux, Montana 59353



SPECIAL OFFER!

Mention this ad at the Centennial Car Information Center and
Receive ONE (1) FREE Montana Native Rock
 (petrified wood, agate, fossil, etc.)

Bring your Custer Country Vacation Guide to the Information Center during open hours Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Put Wibaux at the top of your travel itinerary when you travel to Montana from the east on Interstate 94.

This "Gateway to Montana" community has a State Visitor Center with all the information you will need to complete your plans for a wonderful vacation in Montana. And as a bonus, you will find Wibaux (pronounced wee-bo) to be a friendly, western town with a colorful history and a charming commercial historic district—a great place to set the tone for the rest of your trip.

State Information Center

Wibaux's State Visitor Information Center is housed in a railroad car that was part of the Montana Centennial Train which was on display at the World's Fair in New York City in 1964. In addition to maps, travel brochures and a friendly hostess, the car features a free museum with many early artifacts and some unusual displays, including a man's vertebrae with an arrowhead embedded in the bone.

The Information Center has visitor information for most of the state of Montana, and visitors who mention the ad on page 12 will receive a free native Montana rock as a souvenir.

Frenchman Starts Cattle Ranch

The town and county were named for Pierre Wibaux, a Frenchman who came to the territory in the late 1800's when he decided his future did not lie in the textile industry operated by his family. He arrived in 1883 and began securing property and cattle even though he had no background in ranching.

His herd of cattle at one time numbered 40,000 head, and they grazed on land he controlled in western North Dakota and eastern Montana.

Teddy Roosevelt was among his friends in this era. The future President of the United States was a badlands rancher at this time. The Marquis de Mores, another Frenchman, undertook a grandiose—though doomed—plan to process beef in western Dakota. Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the town of Medora, ND, just 30 miles from Wibaux, stand today as reminders of the roles these gentlemen played in history.

Town House Museum Complex

Mr. Wibaux's "town house" has been restored to its original condition and features many antique household furnishings of the homestead days. It is



It's Rodeo-de-rodeo time across Custer Country all summer long. Catch the action in July and August in Wibaux.

Frank Datta Photo

the heart of a museum complex which includes a barbershop, a livery stable, gardens, and a railroad caboos. Free tours of the buildings and garden area, located on east Orgain Avenue, are conducted during the summer months.

Monument of Founder

Pierre Wibaux himself provided funds for a monumental statue in his likeness. It stands on the west edge of the town and overlooks the land he loved so well. The statue faces the direction of his main ranch, known as the W-Bar, located northeast of town.

Historic St. Peter's Church

The old St. Peter's Catholic Church, a beautiful building faced with lava rock and built with funds donated by the

Wibaux family, marked its 100th year in 1995. It is just one of a number of buildings included in a free, self-guided walking tour of Wibaux's commercial historic district. Tour brochures may be picked up at the Information Center.

Art and Gardens

Across town on Beaver Street, Pastor and Mrs. Harry Heidt open their Gateway Gallery to visitors free of charge. The gallery houses a private collection of bronze sculptures, Indian art, arrowheads and spear points. Outside, visitors are invited to enjoy flower gardens combined with native rocks.

Enjoy local—mostly handmade—arts

and crafts at the Prairie Creative Arts Association's gift shop in the Palace Cafe building at the corner of Wibaux Street and Second Avenue South.

Parks and Recreation

A new public outdoor swimming pool is on west Nolan Avenue. Shade trees and playground equipment are adjacent to the pool. Baseball games between area clubs are a popular summer activity at the field on east Second Avenue South.

Wibaux has several city parks where visitors can enjoy a picnic, take a walk, or smell flower gardens courtesy of the Wibaux Garden Club. The VFW Memorial Park near the Pierre Wibaux statue overlooks the Beaver Valley. The Wibaux city park on the main thoroughfare, Wibaux Street, has shade trees, picnic tables, and new playground equipment. Picnic tables are also available at a new park across from the nursing home at the south end of town.

Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife

It looks like just a small stream, but Beaver Creek, which flows through



Wibaux's old St. Peter's Catholic Church, covered with native rocks, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mike Archdale Photo

Wibaux, has produced some big fish, including walleye and northern pike in excess of 10 pounds. Catfish and bullheads also can be caught in the creek, while panfish and trout are found in many area farm ponds. A public pond with picnic area is located on the edge of the city limits on Highway 7 South.

A blend of badlands and rolling hills offers fine photography or hunting trophies in mule deer, whitetail deer and antelope. Upland game birds also are plentiful in some parts of the county. Deer, wild turkeys, beaver and a wide variety of songbirds are frequently spotted—sometimes right in town!



Pierre Wibaux's former town house is now the heart of Wibaux's museum complex.

Wayne Mumford Photo

Activities and Events

Wibaux doesn't have any snow in July and Beaver Creek is too narrow for water skiing. But the community is planning its second annual Eastern Montana -Ski Festival July 4-6. The slightly offbeat festivities celebrate the large number of Polish settlers in the area whose names end in "-ski" as well as the "Norskis," Germans and other groups who developed Wibaux County. In addition to a parade, polka music and a Polish barbecue, the festival includes games such as dryland skiing, cabbage basketball, and pole vaulting. Visitors are welcome to join the fun.

Events in Wibaux in 1996

July: Ice Cream Social at	
Pierre Wibaux Museum	4
Ranch Rodeo.....	5
Eastern Montana-Ski Festival Parade, Polish Barbecue, Music, Games, and Dance	6
August: Wibaux County Fair	23-25
Horse Judging, Exhibits	23
Night Show	23
Livestock Judging.....	24
Rodeo	24
Fair Parade	25
Demolition Derby.....	25
Livestock Sale.....	25
November: Famous Annual Turkey	
Tourney and Craft Show.....	29-30



Wild turkey numbers are growing along Beaver Creek near Wibaux.

Marlene Welliever Photo



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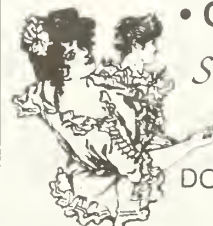
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While in Baker, be sure to stop at the O'Fallon Historical Museum and allow these ladies to greet you and show you a unique collection from the past. Gloria Wester Photo



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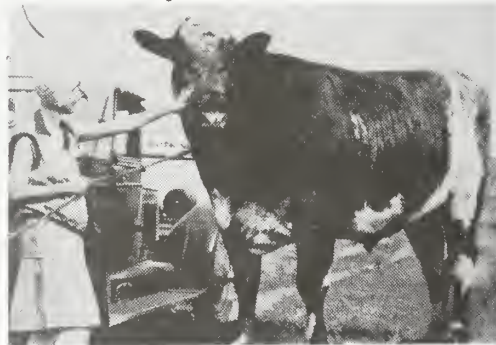
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O'Fallon Museum

• The Courthouse Complex • 2nd Street East • Baker, Montana

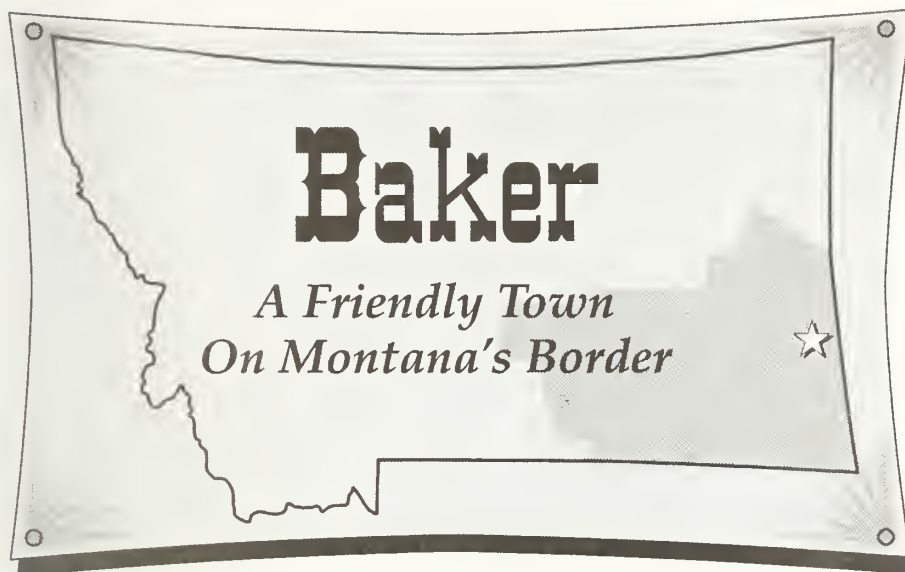


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Enjoy some of the best finds Montana has to offer by including a trip off the beaten path—but not out of the comfort zone!—to Baker. Turn south from Wibaux on Highway 7. If you are coming in from the east, travel on Highway 12. Baker, the Friendly City, offers a relaxed, warm welcome.

What is there to do in Baker? You name it! In the summer take advantage of fine outdoor recreational facilities. In Baker you can play golf, tennis, softball, or pitch horseshoes. All of these activities are within walking distance of each other.

Water Sports

You can swim, or go boating and water skiing at Baker Lake and have a picnic in one of the beautiful city parks. Fishermen will be sure to have a fish story or two to take home, after casting a line in Baker Lake or in nearby Sandstone Reservoir, where pike, crappie, perch and walleye can be caught. No matter what sport you like, you'll find it in Baker.

Hunting

Hunters often go home with huge trophies from the healthy, carefully managed wild game population in the Fallon County habitat. You can hunt deer, antelope, pheasants, wild turkeys, or rabbits throughout the area. And you'll always be able to find someone to give you tips on the best places for success. Many of the farmers and ranchers are glad to give permission when you ask. (Please be sure to ask!) Many parcels of land around Baker are part of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program that is

designed to help hunters gain access to good hunting lands. The hunting section of this guide explains the program in more detail.

Winter Sports

Winter sports are no more limited than the snow in the Friendly City.



Medicine Rocks State Park, located between Baker and Ekalaka, offers an opportunity to explore unusual rock formations. There are picnic facilities at the park. Native Americans gave the area its name. Here they found "good medicine."

Travel Montana Photo

There are lots of wide open spaces for cross country skiing or snowmobiling. Or go ice skating at the lighted outdoor rink. Ice fishing lures plenty of fishermen to augered holes, and lots of local folks are willing to share their "secrets" about how to land the big one.

County Museum

If you let your mind wander, you can imagine how the Indians lived, or what hardships the first explorers, trappers, or settlers must have faced. The O'Fallon Historical Museum in Baker will fill in the details that your imagination may have left out. Volunteers will give you directions to one of the many teepee rings in the area, or point out to you the wagon ruts left by some of the original wagon trains that came through Montana.

Recreation Center

Here is another secret. In the heart of Baker is one of the finest indoor recreation facilities in the state. You can swim in the indoor heated pool, play racquetball or wallyball, or use the weight room at the Baker Recreation Center, adjacent to the high school. It's open year-round.

Fallon Medical Complex

Oh, and if you over-do it a bit, health care is available at the Fallon Medical Complex, which includes a 12-bed hospital, and community clinic.

Nearby Activities

There are lots of relaxing activities to enjoy in and around Baker, too. Enjoy the local museum and drive south to see Medicine Rocks State Park. (There is more information on this park on page 40.) Travel west from town, and



A reflection of quiet peace. This photo shows Baker, Montana bordered by Baker Lake. When the sun comes up, it is a popular spot for fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, and — in winter — ice skating and snowmobiling.

Julie McLean Photo

you will find a fine new trap shooting and target range. Tournament season for the range is usually from May to October, but you can use it on your own any time.

Beautiful Scenery

No matter which direction you look in Baker, you'll see stretches of scenery painted with golden fields and sandstone, arched horizon to horizon with a big blue sky that is most often piled full of mile-deep, pillowy clouds. In fact, to really get a view of the surrounding area, fly into Baker. Because of the oil activity in the area, the fine airport complex is cleared to land most aircraft. Much of the land is virtually unchanged from thousands of years ago. Wildlife is part of the landscape scenes. You may even see the bighorn sheep herd that ranges in the rugged

red hills between Baker and Miles City.

County Fair

The Fallon County Fair is August 15-18. Carnival rides, agricultural and business exhibits and rodeo are part of the fun. There is lots of food to sample and a night show, featuring famous entertainment.

Bronco Days

Activities in Baker begin with the Bronco Days Rodeo in March. Held indoors, at a fine arena, the event is action-packed with cowboys and cowgirls competing for points that lead the best on broncs to the national level.

Fourth of July

Baker's 4th of July celebration includes everything from beach volleyball tournaments, to pie-eating con-

tests, sack races, and horseshoe pitching exhibitions.

Summer Festival and Street Dance

Check with the Baker Chamber of Commerce for the dates of the Summer Festival and Street Dance. The event includes exhibits and entertainment throughout the day, followed by a dance on Baker's Main Street, born of good old-fashioned country music.

Free Camping

Campers and RV travelers can park free overnight at the city RV park, complete with sewage disposal facilities. Or you can pitch a tent for the night at Steve McClain Memorial Park, which has picnic tables, bathroom facilities, and barbecues. Excellent motel accommodations are available at reasonable



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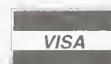
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WELCOME TO BAKER, MONTANA

- 1 Baker High School / Rec. Center
- 2 O'Fallon Historical Museum
- 3 Fallon Medical Complex
- 4 Triangle Park
- 5 Football Field
- 6 Horseshoe Pits
- 7 Highway 7 & Main Street
- 8 Ice Skating



To Wibaux

7

Main St.

Prairie Ave.

Custer Ave.

1st St. E

2nd St. E

3rd St. E

4th St. E

5th St. E

6th St. E

7th St. E

8th St. E

9th St. E

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11th St. E

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25th St. E

26th St. E

27th St. E

28th St. E

29th St. E

30th St. E

31st St. E

32nd St. E

33rd St. E

34th St. E

35th St. E

36th St. E

37th St. E

38th St. E

39th St. E

Everett Ave.

Railroad Ave.

Milwaukee Ave.

Montana Ave.

Dakota Ave.

Wyoming Ave.

Colorado Ave.

Texas Ave.

California Ave.

Arizona Ave.

New Mexico Ave.

Idaho Ave.

Utah Ave.

Nebraska Ave.

Kansas Ave.

Oklahoma Ave.

Missouri Ave.

Illinois Ave.

Indiana Ave.

Ohio Ave.

Michigan Ave.

Wisconsin Ave.

Minnesota Ave.

Iowa Ave.

Mississippi Ave.

Alabama Ave.

Georgia Ave.

Florida Ave.

South Carolina Ave.

North Carolina Ave.

Virginia Ave.

West Virginia Ave.

Maryland Ave.

Delaware Ave.

Pennsylvania Ave.

New Jersey Ave.

New York Ave.

Connecticut Ave.

Rhode Island Ave.

To Miles City

Vienna Ave.

Ernestine Ave.

6th St. W

5th St. W

4th St. W

3rd St. W

2nd St. W

1st St. W

12

11th St. W

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4th St. W

3rd St. W

2nd St. W

1st St. W

12

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To Bowman

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Champs

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Olympic-size
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Baker Chamber of Commerce

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To Ekalaka

and Medicine Rocks State Park

7

Fallon County
Fairgrounds

Softball
Complex

Baker
Municipal
Airport

Lakeview Golf Course

Home of the '89
State Girls
Basketball Champs &
'71 Boys State
Basketball Champs



Oil is big business in the Baker area. Productive wells can be seen along the highway. Benefits of the mineral wealth are evident in the recreation complexes and community facilities in the town, many of which are the result of a partnership between private enterprise and government agencies.

Photo courtesy of Baker Chamber of Commerce

rates, and restaurants please both palate and pocketbook.

Warm Welcome

Residents say, "Whether your interest is sports or fossil hunting, or you just want to strike up a game of whist at the Senior Citizen's Center, you'll like Baker, Montana, the Friendly City. Our business people are eager to serve you, and our citizens are always willing to do their best to make you feel t'home."

1996 Events in Baker

Besides the Fallon County Fair on August 15-18 in 1996, the town sponsors events, such as a Health Fair in March, the annual Gigantic Treasure Fest (an indoor garage sale) at the end of March, and a Talent Show in summer. Fall events include a Customer Appreciation Day and a Calcutta. Winter is brightened by a Bull-R-Ama, a Craft Bazaar, Santa Day, the Jaycee Dinner for Senior Citizens, and a Community Concert. Contact the Baker Chamber for specific dates of these events.

These businesses and individuals help sponsor ads in the Custer Country Vacation Guide:

Herbst Insurance Agency
Bank of Baker
Lakeview Country Club

A Town Named Joe

In May of 1993, the town of Ismay, MT was contacted by a radio station in Kansas City, MO. The station had a special request for the town to consider—changing the name of the town to Joe, Montana for the duration of the football season.

The radio station promoters felt that this was a great way to honor their newly signed Kansas City Chiefs quarterback, Joe Montana, the man.

Ismay, population 22, agreed.

On July 3, 1993, it was official.

Ismay was Joe.

In celebration, the town organized a ranch rodeo, a parade, and a night show for July 3. They drew over 2,000 spectators. They hoped to raise a couple thousand dollars to cover the annual operating costs of their volunteer fire department.

The mayor, who earns \$4 a month for his mayoral duties, proudly reported that by February of 1994, the town had netted nearly \$70,000.

Ismay will hold Joe Montana (or Joe, Montana) Days again in 1996 on July 6. There'll be a picnic, games such as baseball, volleyball, and horseshoes, and a dance in the evening..

Caps, t-shirts, and other Joe, Montana souvenirs may be purchased by calling 1-800-HELP JOE.

Everyone's welcome at the 1996 cele-



Bighorn sheep can be seen in the hills between Baker and Miles City. Montana's Block Management hunting program helps hunters gain access to the sheep habitat.

Jim Anderson Photo

bration, says the mayor, but he advises that lodging reservations should be made in Miles City or Baker. Joe has no hotels, but pitched camps are accommodated.



Residents of Ismay changed the name of their tiny town to Joe — Joe, Montana. Most of the good sports of Joe live "up the road."

Gloria Wester Photo

Wildlife Watching



"Who is viewing whom?" asks this horned owl

Donna Delp Photo

"When Montana's first official explorers, Lewis and Clark, passed through what was then part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1805-1806, they were literally struck silent by the numbers and diversity of wildlife. Captain Clark was so awed that at one point in his journal he vowed to write no further about this country's amazing animal numbers for fear no one would believe him."

This quote is from the introduction to "Montana Wildlife Viewing Guide." The guide is a multi-agency project, involving the public land management agencies in Montana: the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region; the Bureau of Land Management; the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Montana Department of State Lands; and the National Park Service. It is written by Carol and Hank Fischer.

Since Montana is such a big state (fourth largest of the United States), the guide first divides the state into the six state-designated tourism regions. Maps of each region are designed to point out wildlife viewing locations. Each area is described, including a description of the wildlife activity of the location. Directions to the site, ownership of the site, and size are given. Symbols tell what facilities are available, and recreation opportunities. The guide includes

113 viewing sites throughout Montana.

The Custer Country tourism region has twelve designated wildlife viewing areas: Lake Mason National Wildlife Refuge - Roundup; Two Moon Park - Billings; Norm Schoenthal Island - Billings; Pompeys Pillar National Landmark - Pompeys Pillar; Howrey Island - Hysham; Yellowtail Dam Afterbay - Fort Smith; Black's Pond Drive Route - Ashland; William L. Matthews Recreation & Habitat Management Area - Miles City; Terry Badlands - Terry; Makoshika State Park - Glendive; Medicine Rocks State Park - Baker, Ekalaka; and Long Pines - Ekalaka. Wildlife featured includes songbirds, upland birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, birds of prey, small mammals, hoofed mammals, carnivores, reptiles/amphibians, and fish.

From all indications, wildlife watching is becoming the premier outdoor recreation activity of the 1990's. One federal survey reports that in the Mountain States people taking primary wildlife viewing trips increased 76 percent between 1980 and 1990.

Those involved are committed to making Montana's wildlife viewing as accessible as possible, while at the same time protecting the animals and their habitat as prudently as possible. Knowing that people combine wildlife viewing with other recreation, they have made a special effort to develop

sites that are accessible by a variety of means—from a car, on foot, from a boat, on a bike, etc.

At the sites, guidelines are posted to help visitors know where to spot wildlife and the best times for viewing. Wildlife viewers are reminded to stay on trails and watch the animals exhibit their normal behavior without interruption.

Watchable Wildlife Poster

Watchable wildlife is one of the best reasons for traveling to Montana. Nationally famous Montana wildlife artist, Monte Dolack, has created a poster to show off, support and preserve the state's wildlife treasure. The poster, depicting loons and other wildlife on a lake, is designed to heighten awareness of the needs of all Montana's fish and wildlife, from common loons to painted turtles.

The poster costs \$25 plus \$5 for shipping and handling and is available by writing to: Montana's Watchable Wildlife, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624, or phone 1-800-582-2665. Checks should be made out to Montana's Watchable Wildlife, and proceeds will benefit the more than 600 species of wildlife and fish in Montana.

The book, "Montana Wildlife Viewing Guide," is available for \$9.95. A free pamphlet, "A Guide to Ultimate Wildlife Watching," is included.



Montana CowBelles perpetuate the art of cooking chuckwagon style.

Robert Black Photo

Taco Pie

This recipe won the annual Montana Beef Cook-Off competition. The culinary artist is Jenny Redland, a sophomore student at Hysham Schools, Hysham, MT.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 lb. Beef Hamburger | 1 package crescent rolls |
| 1/3 cup chopped olives | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1/2 cup water | 2 cups crushed corn chips |
| 1 package taco mix | 1 cup shredded cheese |
| 1/3 cup whole kernel corn | |

Brown the Beef Hamburger and simmer the first 5 ingredients for 5 minutes. Put crescent rolls in 9"x9" pan for crust. Sprinkle half of the crushed corn chips on crust. Put Beef Hamburger mixture on top. Next, spread sour cream over mixture and sprinkle cheese on top. Arrange other half of corn chips over top. Bake at 375 degrees 25-35 minutes. Other possible ingredients: chili powder, green peppers or salsa.



There is an art to cooking pitchfork fondue style! The hot, tender steaks are a favorite at cookouts throughout the West!

Milt Wester Photo

A CowBelle Welcome

"CowBelles" and "Cattlegirls" organizations promote the use of beef products by fostering understanding of the nutritional value of beef, by providing good up-to-date recipes, and by supporting projects and activities of local 4-H Clubs.

For free recipes, write to Big Horn County CowBelles, Ethel Herbel, Route #1, Box 1074, Hardin, MT 59034.



Cowboy Barbecued Beans

This favorite from the recipe files of Callie Rech of Roundup, MT is ideal for a family meal or for a branding crew (may be doubled or tripled).

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 lb. Hamburger, browned | 2 tbsp. vinegar |
| 1/2 cup diced onion, browned | 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| 1/2 cup catsup | 1 tsp. Tabasco sauce |

Salt and pepper to taste

Blend the list of ingredients. Add a 28 oz. can of B&M baked beans. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees F.

Hamburger Sausage Logs

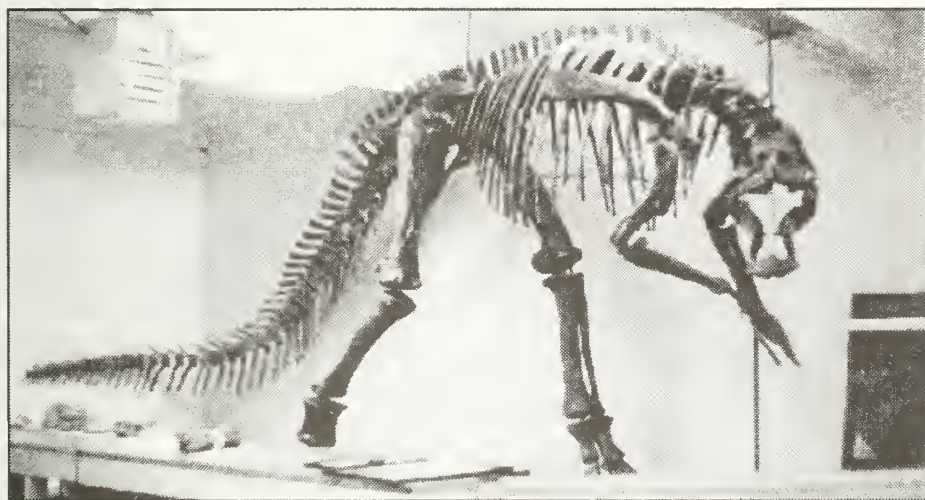
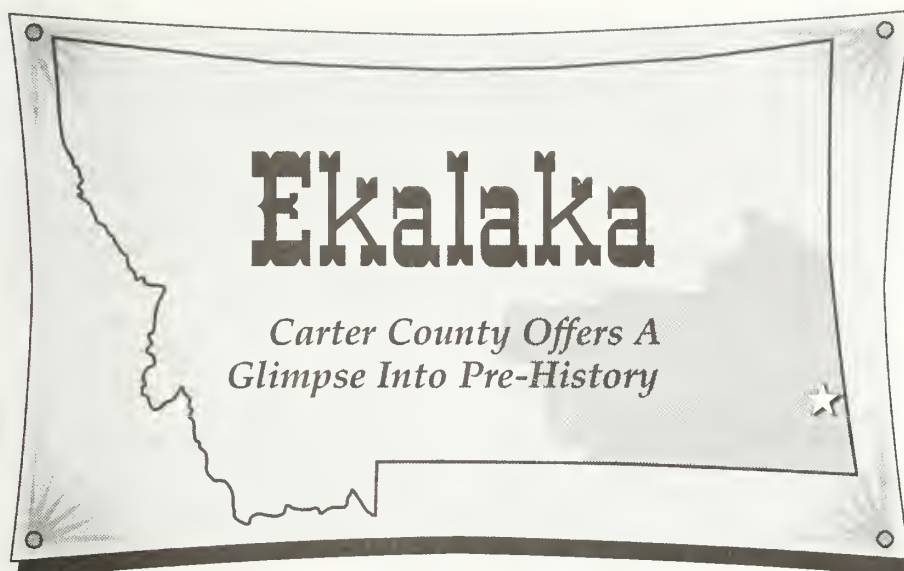
This recipe was prepared in front of television cameras by Luella Fox of Hardin, MT. The segment was aired on the program, The Big Sky Journal, produced by King Videocable of California.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 1/2 lbs. Beef Hamburger | 2 tsp. garlic salt |
| 1/4 cup Tender Quick | 2 tbsp. Liquid Smoke |
| 2 tsp. crushed peppercorns | |

First Day: Mix Beef Hamburger and Tender Quick.

Put mixture in refrigerator.

Second Day: Mix remaining ingredients into Beef Hamburger mixture and roll into rolls 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Bake on broiler pan at 200 degrees F. for 4 hours, turning to new position every hour.



Located on Ekalaka's Main Street, the Carter County Museum houses fossil remains of dinosaurs that roamed the country 65 million years ago. The most complete skeleton is this Anatosaurus, or duck-billed dinosaur. Other museum displays include artifacts used by area residents. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Gloria Wester Photo

Ekalaka is the county seat of Carter County, population 637. Though small, the community meets the needs of the traveler with two motels, several restaurants, grocery stores, service stations, a collection of Main Street businesses, and a town swimming pool.

Entertainment is simple here. There is no pressure to rush through freeways to huge stadiums. No need to bring your tux. And you won't need to tip the maitre de for the best table.

There's lots of room, lots of time, and lots of space. Entertainment comes in measures of peace and quiet.

Days of '85 Fair and Rodeo

Not that Ekalakans don't know how to have a good time and whoop it up, occasionally...in between the hard days of work that good farming, ranching and related businesses require.

The Carter County Days of '85 (1885) Fair and Rodeo Aug. 9-11 is highlighted by horse shows, rodeos, fair exhibits and a parade plus an evening dance. The District 7 Fiddlers traditionally compete on Sunday afternoon.

During the school year visitors are invited to enjoy sports contests and musical presentations at Carter County High School in Ekalaka.

Meadowlark Welcomes Spring

The Meadowlark Club of Ekalaka celebrates the arrival of the state bird, the mountain meadowlark, with spring activities. In the fall, there is a farewell to the meadowlark event.

Essential Services

The airport, located on the east edge of Ekalaka, offers aerial travelers a 3,500 ft. lighted, paved runway, tie downs and hangars.

The Dahl Memorial Clinic, Hospital,

Pharmacy, and Nursing Home provides medical and pharmaceutical services to residents and guests to the community.

Hammond, Boyes

Heading west from Alzada on U.S. Highway 212, a traveler can reach the communities of Hammond and Boyes. The Old West Trading Post in Boyes combines a service station, store and museum-quality display of restored covered wagons, ranch wagons, saddles and artifacts collected over the last 20 years by proprietor "Slug" Mills.

Hunting and Fishing

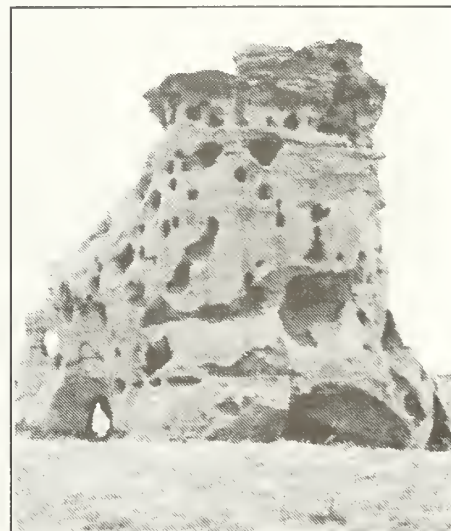
Though sheep and cattle production are the primary industries of Carter County, the area produces mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope, grouse, sage hens, pheasants, trout, bass and bluegill. Wildlife production in Carter County has long enticed sportsmen to the southeastern corner of the state.

1996 in Carter County

Fireworks Display at Belltower;
15 miles south of Ekalaka July 4
Days of '85 Fair, Rodeo, Working Dog
Show, and Parade . . . August 9-10-11

Custer National Forest

Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills near Ekalaka, are Custer National Forest lands that provide excellent hunting for mule deer, white-tail deer, and wild turkeys. The Long Pines is noted for the Capitol Rock National Natural Landmark. This area also is known for having a very high density of nesting raptors.



Wind and water began to sculpt this formation at Medicine Rocks State Park near Ekalaka at the time dinosaurs ruled the earth.

Donna Delp Photo

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Premiere Drive
August 4-9, 1996

RANCH VACATIONS

MAY 18-22, 1996

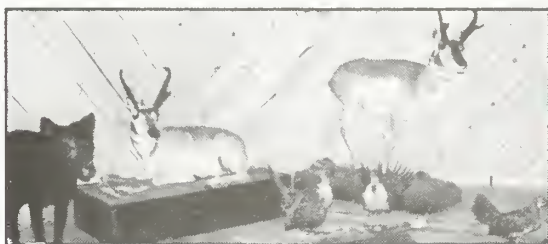
JUNE 8-12, 1996

JULY 13-17, 1996

AUGUST 12-16, 1996

SEPTEMBER 7-11, 1996

photos by Lana K. Smith, Big Sky Photography



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Open Sundays During Summer &
Hunting Season



Broadus, Montana, "Gateway and Crossroads" of Southeastern Montana, is located just west of the famous Powder River, which was heard of world-wide from the American soldiers' yell of "Powder River, Let 'er Buck." The Powder River has been described as "a mile wide and an inch deep, too wet to plow and too thick to drink."

County Historical Museum

The Powder River Historical Museum in Broadus is an attraction that will interest the whole family, as well as history buffs. Ladies wearing Centennial dress can sometimes be found greeting visitors at the museum during the summer. Of special interest is the buggy used by Colonel Biddle at least 100 years ago and designed to ford the deeper streams in the area. Among other things, you'll see antique cars and a wonderful collection of pioneer pictures. Housed behind the museum itself is the original county jail, reminiscent of outlaws and rustlers. The jail was used for 60 years before being replaced. There is no charge for enjoying this view of the past.

The museum also houses one of the nation's greatest collections of sea shells, minerals and Indian artifacts. This private collection, known as Mac's Museum, was put together by local pioneer, Mac McCurdy.

Activities

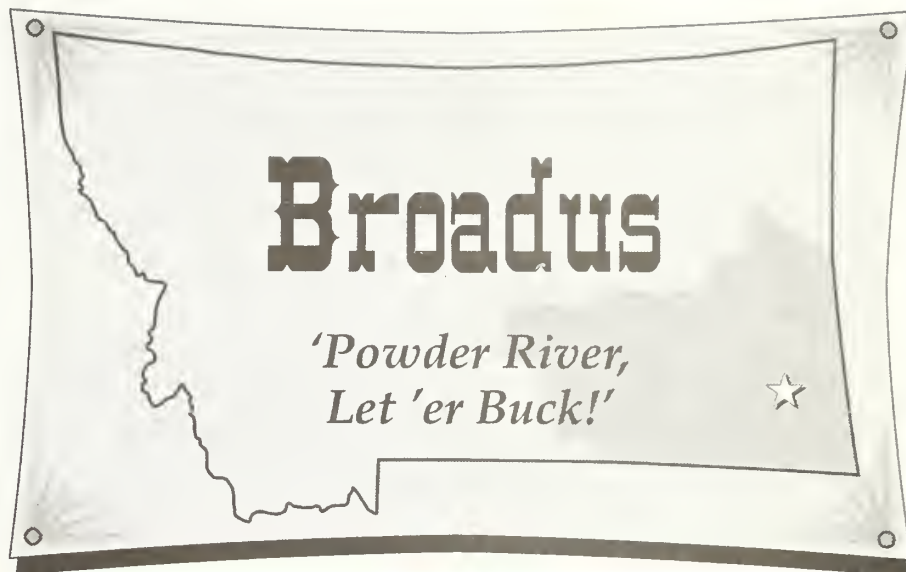
Powder River Taxidermy & Co. features a large unique collection of wildlife mounts. Taxidermy work is done on location and may be observed in progress.

Broadus challenges golfers to enjoy the 9-hole grass greens golf course. It offers a putting green, driving range, rental carts and clubs. Or enjoy the view of the course from the clubhouse.

Take time to stretch your legs and let the kids run. The city park on the edge of town has shade, picnic tables, playground equipment, and lighted tennis courts. A huge divided gazebo provides weather protection for picnics.

Join the Cattle Drive

You'll be able to say, "I did it all!" when you join the Powder River Wagon Train and Cattle Drive, August 4-9, 1996. You will have a horse of your own to ride and care for, or you can join the train by claiming a seat on a wagon. You can stand beside seasoned cowboys and cowgirls and lend a hand pitching camp, bedding down the herd



Southeastern Montana shows bowhunters scenes some folks only see in their dreams. If, on a day afield, trophies are few, a Montana sunset is reward enough.

Powder River Outfitters Photo



Tales of the trails are told and retold by the lucky people who sign up for cattle drive adventures. Broadus will host the Premiere Cattle Drive August 4-9 in 1996.

E.M. Howard Photo

for the night, and getting the wagons rolling in the morning.

You'll learn to trail cattle on a real-life cattle drive experience. You'll work



Reynolds Battlefield National Monument is 35 miles south of Broadus. Here, Colonel Reynolds and his cavalymen clashed with the Sioux.

Bob McCurdy Photo

up an appetite for cowboy coffee, eggs and hotcakes at the chuck wagon. And nothing beats the thick steaks, baked beans and hot biscuits served up in the wide open spaces. Evening campfires are for singing, spinning yarns, and making friends. To join up, dial these area code (406) phone numbers: 427-5317, 436-2404, or 436-2350.

1996 Events in Broadus

May: Ranch Vacations	18-22
Ringling 5	31
June: Muzzle Loader Rendezvous ..	1-2
Ranch Vacations	8-12
4-H Youth Range Camp	11-14
Little Levi Rodeo	29
(No Contestants over 12)	
July: All-School Class Reunion	4
Freedom Fun Runs	4
Ranch Rodeo & Parade	4
Ranch Vacations	13-17
August: Premiere Cattle Drive	4-9
Ranch Vacations	12-16
Powder River County Fair	15-17
September: Quarterhorse Futurity and Horse Sale	1
Ranch Vacations	7-11
Quilt Show	21
November: Country Store & Craft Fair	16
December: Christmas Stroll	2
All Summer	

Roping, Barrel Racing every Tuesday and Friday at Broadus Fairgrounds. Visitors invited. Free.

Softball, golf, baseball. Camping spots are available in Broadus, too.

5-Mile Archery Club 3-D Shoots monthly, call 406-436-2668

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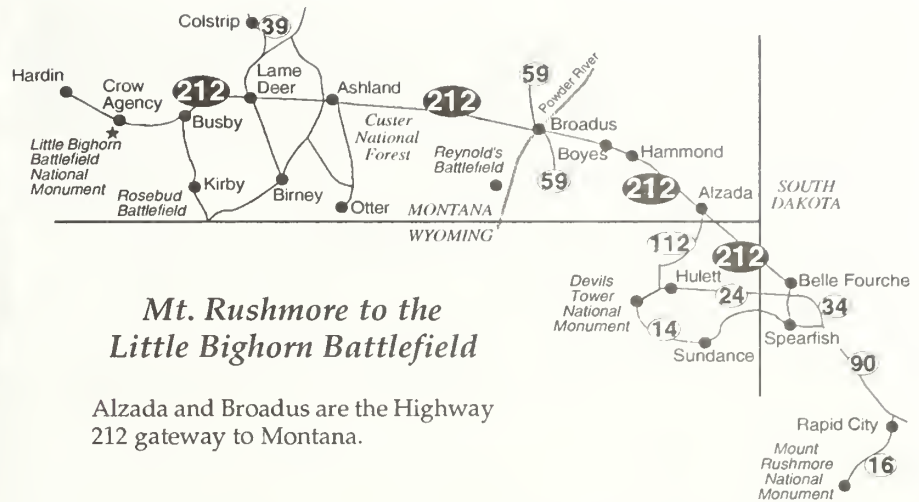
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You will see this "airplane" rock along Highway 212 east of Broadus.

Donna Delp Photo



Mt. Rushmore to the Little Bighorn Battlefield

Alzada and Broadus are the Highway 212 gateway to Montana.

Powderville

Powderville, north of Broadus, was originally known as Elkhorn Crossing of the old Deadwood Stage. Still visible is the route the wagons took in fording the river here.

A point of interest maintained by the Powder River County Historical Society is Boot Hill Cemetery, west of the present Powderville Post Office, which was established in 1872.

Alzada

Alzada is on the banks of the Little Missouri River in the southeastern corner of Montana.

The area was settled in the late 1870s by pioneers who wanted to raise cattle.

A telegraph line linked a saloon and a small general store established in 1877 to the distant world. The town was originally named Stoneville for the 1880 postmaster, Lewis Stone. In 1885 the name was changed to Alzada. It was a stage stop between Deadwood,

SD and Miles City, MT.

In Alzada's early days, the cattle rustler and the horse thief operated at will, much to the hardship and expense of the ranchers. The most notorious and boldest were the Exelby Gang. Beginning their "operations" in 1877, the gang rustled for several years. Eventually, a series of events including

rustling, arrests, an attempted rescue, and exchanges of gunfire culminated in the "1884 Shootout at Stoneville" and the ultimate breakup of the Exelby Gang.

The trip to Alzada is worth the miles along Highway 212 to hear the details of the shootout and other historic events.

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*Downtown,
 Glendive, Montana
 Located at the Jordan Inn*



A sign leading into Glendive says "Superhost." And the people of Glendive make sure it lives up to the title. Now, a super host would have lots of fun things to do, lots of good places to eat, and would be congenial about inviting you to join in on all the fun to be had. Well, that's Glendive.

In Glendive and throughout Dawson County you can go fishing. You can catch a rodeo sometimes. There are opportunities for golfing, swimming, agate hunting, boating and camping.

Big game hunters can bag deer and antelope, and the area is also known for its excellent game bird hunting. For fishermen, the catch ranges from prehistoric paddlefish, snapping turtles and catfish, to renowned game fish such as walleye.

The summer months bring rodeo action, from local family team roping to college and professional rodeo. Glendive even boasts its own college rodeo team—the Cowboys and Cowgirls at Dawson Community College on the outskirts of Glendive.

Frontier Gateway Museum

Enjoy stepping into the past when you visit the Frontier Gateway Museum. Featured are dinosaur fossils, Indian artifacts, farm machinery, blacksmith tools, and even a suit of armor. One of the most popular exhibits is "Merrill West," a walkway of replicas of businesses which lined Glendive's business district in the late 1800's.

On the museum grounds you'll find a restored sheep wagon, other wagons and carriages, a rural school house, log cabin, windmill pump, smithy shop and more.

The museum is located off I-94 Exit 215, and east on the Belle Prairie Frontage Road, and is open from the end of May through mid-September. Admission is free.

History Books Available

The Tree Branches Genealogy Club of Glendive has published the book, "Our Times, Our Lives," which is a history of Dawson County families and communities. The book contains more than 1,000 pages, including a list of births, marriages, lists of homestead filings, and personal stories of over 1,200 area families. It is available at the Chamber of Commerce for \$25.

Eastern Montana Veterans' Home

An 80-bed facility opened for occupancy in 1995 as a nursing home for veterans.



Dr. Mike Wheeler of Laurel, MT, caught this 84 pound paddlefish at Intake Recreation Area near Glendive.

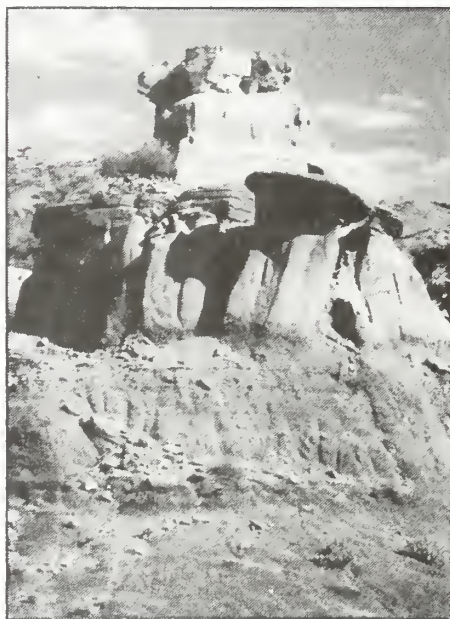
Linda Wheeler Photo

An Invitation to Places and Fun

Glendive, as a Superhost town, dedicated to making visitors feel welcome

and to answering their questions about local attractions and events, invites you to see the following sites.

Makoshika State Park: intriguing, rugged badlands, located on the outskirts of Glendive, encompass 8,123 acres. A \$3 day use fee is charged at the park. A new interactive visitor center is complete with a triceratops dinosaur skeleton head and frill found near Makoshika. The "badlands" of Makoshika started as a barren rock area. The soft rock strata eroded into varied fantastic forms.



Located on the southeastern edge of Glendive is Makoshika State Park. The name is Sioux and means bad earth or bad lands. Makoshika is a special place where the evolution of the planet earth and its plant and animal life—for nearly 80 million years—can be read. Among the carved rock formations are the fossilized remains of plants and animals from the age of reptiles. Visible here is evidence of the first mammals, the great ice age, primitive tribes, and the Indian culture.

Montana Moss Agates: found in creek bottoms, gravel beds, and along banks of the Yellowstone River running through Glendive. No charge. Directions given at chamber or Jordan Conference Center.

Paddlefishing for the prehistoric non-skeletal fish: near Intake, 17 miles north of Glendive, may weigh 100 pounds. A Montana fishing license and a special tag are needed.

Frontier Gateway Museum: antiques of the early-day homesteaders and cattlemen of the area. Fossils and Indian artifacts. Free.

The Gallery: works of artists from the Glendive area, 110 West Towne Street. Free.

Cottonwood Country Club: fantastic nine-hole course. Take Sidney Highway #16 North, then turn at

Highland Park Rd. and watch for golf course sign. Visitors welcome, urged to call (406) 365-8797 for tee-times.

Jaycee West Park: tennis courts, picnic area, basketball, horseshoes, restrooms, and RV dump station. Next to Yellowstone River on Towne Street.

Lloyd Square Park: picnic grounds, heated pool with separate diving and wading areas, tennis courts, horseshoes, basketball, restrooms, playground area. In center of city. Free.

Self-guided walking tour of Glendive's Downtown Historic District: many buildings listed in National Register of Historic places. Guide brochures available at Chamber of Commerce, 200 N. Merrill, located in the heart of downtown Glendive.

Glendive Visitors Guide: published by local newspaper, available through chamber. Write Glendive Chamber, Box 930, Glendive, MT 59330, or pick one up in Glendive.

Glendive Public Library: extensive collection of Montana books and authors, local histories, local newspapers back to 1882. 200 S. Kendrick. Call (406) 365-3633.

Dawson Community College

Serving the educational needs of eastern Montana, Dawson Community College in Glendive is a comprehensive two-year college offering education at all levels and is a focal point in the community for the arts and services as well as education.

Elderhostels

Thousands of senior citizens all over the world combine travel with educational experiences by participating in Elderhostels. Each June, Dawson Community College sponsors an Elderhostel, which features living in college dormitories, listening to lectures, and taking field trips, hikes and going on agate hunting expeditions.

Attention, Rock Hounds!

Rock hounds will enjoy the area—choice Montana agates can be found, as well as fossil remains of prehistoric creatures and Indian artifacts.

The Yellowstone River in eastern Montana is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of plume and moss agates found on its shores.

The Chamber of Commerce has an interesting display of agates and will be able to supply you with the names of several local agate dealers and retailers. Guided rock hounder boat tours are available.

Lewis and Clark Trail

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark

Expedition began from St. Louis, heading up the Missouri River and continued on to the west coast. Clark and party stopped at various points along the Yellowstone River to camp, make canoes and record their historic journey. The Lewis and Clark Trail markers point out the route.

A sign marks a spot in Glendive near where members of the expedition made dugout canoes out of cottonwoods.

1996 Events in Glendive

May: Annual Buzzard Day at Makoshika State Park 4
Paddlefish Season.
Yellowstone River at Intake Dam, 17 mi. N. of Glendive
June: Badlands Drifters Car Club's "Cars in the Park" Show 28-29
July: Independence Day Celebration .4
Summer Festival 19-20
Bluegrass Festival 27
Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial Display July 30-Aug. 4
August: Dawson County Fair and Rodeo 8-11
Melodrama at Makoshika State Park 16-18
September: Historic Bell Street Bridge Day 22
November: Holiday Light Parade 30

Richey

Richey, Montana, north of Glendive, lies in the center of a productive area. This is cattle and sheep country, with wheat, oats and barley being the main farm crops. A lively little friendly town, Richey has a variety of businesses to serve the visitor, a new post office, and a museum where you can check out the history of the area.

The Richey Historical Museum has over 5,000 articles of historic interest, including a Model A mail car, a blacksmith shop, pioneer kitchen, school and church memorabilia, and newspaper files from 1916 to 1948. Special articles of clothing on display are wedding dresses, World War I and II uniforms, and coats made of buffalo hide, horsehide, raccoon and muskrat. There are washboards and wheelchairs, spinning wheels and musical instruments, and books containing pictures and stories of local pioneers, veterans and churches.

Fun events in 1996 are the Richey High School Rodeo, May 12, Family Day Vintage Car Run, June 1, and the Annual Richey Rodeo, July 21.

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Prehistoric Gamefish

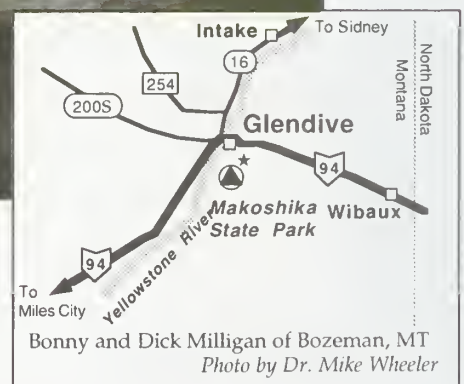


Paddlefish . . .

The Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam, 17 miles north of Glendive, MT, has become the "Paddlefishing and Caviar Capital." From May 15 through June 30, paddlefish run in these murky, roily waters of the Yellowstone River. To fish, besides your regular license, you need a paddlefish tag (this is for a limit of one fish, and costs \$5 for residents

and \$15 for nonresidents); and heavy duty tackle—6/0 to 10/0 treble hooks, 40-80# test line, a heavy surf rod 8-12 ft., a heavy duty salt water spinning reel or star-drag reel, and 4-6 oz. weights. Adult paddlefish may weigh from 40-100 pounds and are very good to eat.

Since 1990, paddlefish roe has been collected by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. The caviar is processed in Glendive and shipped to caviar buyers where it finds its way



to exclusive restaurants and cruise line diners. Proceeds are used for research and improvement of fishing access sites by FW&P. Other profits have benefited historical, cultural and recreational projects in the Custer Country region.



Digging crews carefully moved 400 yards of soil to expose and remove the triceratops skull and body parts that were transported to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT, for preservation. The skeleton is on display at the new Makoshika State Park Visitor Center in Glendive.

Mike Sullivan Photo

Digging Up The Past

By John Little

During August of 1990, the Milwaukee Public Museum conducted a surface study to determine what caused the demise of the dinosaur in the Hell Creek formation near Makoshika State Park in Glendive.

Little did those participating in the study know that what they were about to uncover would set the stage for a significant local event as well as provide an attraction that will endure for years to come.

One of the Milwaukee Public Museums' volunteers, Irv Ladish, was taking a break and nearly sat on what looked like, and later proved to be, a triceratops dinosaur's brow tine. Ladish immediately informed Diane Gabriel, a paleontologist with the

Milwaukee Public Museum, who determined that it was possibly the horn of a triceratops. After flagging the spot, all present proceeded to finish the day's assigned work schedule.

The next day, Gabriel and Makoshika State Park Manager Mike Sullivan proceeded to the flagged spot and began uncovering the eye socket and intact jawbone of a juvenile triceratops with a skull measuring five feet from beak to frill. As the year drew to a close, the site was covered back up and plans were made to excavate the skull and body, if any, at a later date.

Through the generosity of the Milwaukee Museum, the skull was to be donated to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The skull is on permanent display in the new Makoshika State Park Visitor Center.

Since the cost of the excavation was estimated to be \$40,000, Gabriel and her associates with the Milwaukee Public Museum, in conjunction with the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT, raised funds and provided volunteer labor for this noble and lofty project.

In July 1991, after twenty days of

work, which involved three volunteer crews moving over 400 yards of soil, the skull and body parts were transported to the Museum of the Rockies.

Prior to the dig and up to the dinosaur's removal, the Friends of Makoshika raised \$3,000 from sales of a lithograph donated by Gayla Weidenheft of Bozeman. They also applied for and received an additional \$5,000 from the Paddlefish Caviar project sponsored by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce. This money was submitted to the State of Montana and, with matching funds, provided the dollars necessary to begin funding the preparation and restoration of a magnificent piece of Montana's past.

All told, an estimated \$60,000 was raised through volunteer and grant efforts to provide visitors at Makoshika State Park with the opportunity to share in the uniqueness of this artifact and experience the diversity contained within the Big Sky Country.

We've long known that Montana's state parks preserve priceless relics of the past. Yet the Makoshika find proves that we have yet to discover all the treasures of the parks.

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Three natural bridges about 10 miles west of Terry, MT

Charles E. Franks photo

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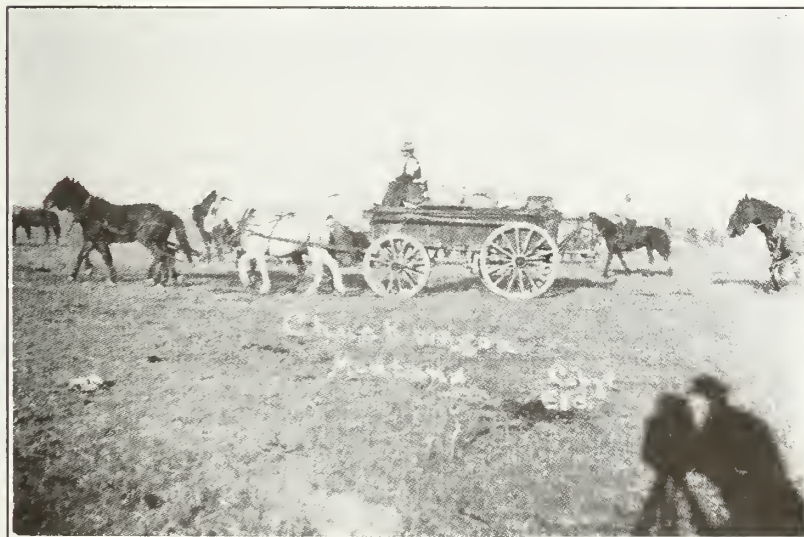
A British lady, her naturalist husband, and her unwieldy 5x7 Graflex camera moved to Terry, Montana in the 1800's. "Lady" Evelyn Cameron took startlingly clear pictures of everything: cowboys, sheepherders, weddings, river crossings, freight wagons, people working, badlands, eagles, coyotes and wolves.

Through her camera lens Terry was recorded for posterity. That posterity has turned into national acclaim for the area through the work of former Time-Life Books editor, Donna Lucey. In the late 1970's, Lucey discovered thousands of Cameron's photo-negatives stashed away in the basement of Cameron's best friend's home. Lucey quickly realized she had discovered a treasure trove of masterpieces chronicling the lives of Terry's early settlers.

After years of sorting the photographs and studying Cameron's meticulously-kept diaries, Lucey published "Photographing Montana 1894-1928: The Life and Work of Evelyn Cameron," a photo-book that beautifully depicts Cameron's photographic genius and her unique personality. National magazines and television networks carried stories on the unusual frontier photographer.

Now, large, crisp copies of the photographs that made her famous are on display in Terry at the new Cameron Gallery. The collection is a stunning portrayal of the everyday lives of eastern Montana homesteaders. Free.

More of Cameron's photos, as well as some of her person-



Lady Evelyn Cameron used her large format Graflex camera to record the 1894 to 1928 history of the Terry region. She has captured her own shadow in the right hand corner of this photo.

Photo courtesy of Prairie County Museum

al effects, are on display at the Prairie County Museum.

Agate Country

Terry is nestled against the Yellowstone River in the heart of agate country, where people come from all over the United States to hunt along the river, the creeks and nearby hills, gathering the translucent rock with the rough skin. The agate can be clear, spotty, banded, almost black or dendritic. Slabbed with a diamond saw, the rocks are mostly used for jewelry, wind chimes, lamp shades and coffee tables.

Petrified and agatized wood and colored jaspers are common in this area. Hunting for these treasures can make a pleasant day, but be sure to ask permission from the owner if hunting on private land.

The Yellowstone River at this point is also known as one of the easy-floating rivers, with currents at 4.7 mph, ideal for the novice or the pro-floater, with scenery and wildlife abundant. Enjoy hunting and fishing at their best in Terry Country.

Historic Sites

Take a short drive up the "Scenic View" road northwest of Terry to see the famed "Badlands." Terry country is also rich in history. Travel to the famed base camp area of the Custer Expedition and visit the graves of soldiers who died from wounds received in the Battle of the Little Bighorn and where the Far West steamboat docked. Thirty-five miles north of Terry is the location of the battle between General Miles and Sitting Bull.

Nostalgia

When is the last time you drove through the ticket window, put the speaker in your car window and leaned back to watch a movie? You can still enjoy popcorn under the stars at an outdoor theater in Terry. It is one of the last of its kind in the country.

Services

Terry offers a hospital, airport, churches, rifle range, outdoor theater, museum, historic hotel, motel, campgrounds, tow service, locker plant, a variety of stores, bars and cafes, a newspaper, beauty salons, an agate shop, and a helping hand, if needed.

Museum

Prairie County Museum is housed in the old State Bank of Terry, an antique treasure itself, with beautiful marble floors and paneling, fine woodwork and lovely glass. It is filled with displays of historic interest: tools, appliances, small machines, and horse and buggy equipment. A dentist office, barber shop, butcher shop, one-room school, library, hospital room, laundry, kitchen, dining room and bedroom date back to the turn of the century. Also on display are thousands of old photographs, including some from the famous Lady Evelyn Cameron collection, and an extensive manuscript file is being built.

Museum members are helpful to tourists and to past residents searching out historical sites and places of interest. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, six days a week (Wednesday through Monday, closed Tuesday).

1996 Events in Terry

Amateur Rodeo.....July 4
Terry Yippee Days,
3 1/2K and 5K runs.....July 27
Prairie Co. Fair.....Aug. 16-18

Hunting

The West's Great Heritage



Custer's Last Hunt? Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer is pictured here with a six point bull elk. The wild game the cavalry encountered helped feed the troops as they rode and camped through the West. Custer wrote under this picture: "For my friend, J.H. Beard...G. Custer."

Photo courtesy of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Archives

Nearly three million acres of land in southeastern Montana have been opened to hunting in the past few years. Here's how.

For big game hunters looking for a place to hunt deer and antelope on private lands in eastern Montana, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Block Management Program assists in providing hunters access to private land.

More than two million acres of private land are contracted under the Block Management Program in Region 7 of southeastern Montana alone for purposes of big game hunting. An additional 500,000-plus acres of federal lands adjacent to the block management areas also became available for hunting.

There is no charge to hunters to use any of the block management units. The program is funded entirely by

sportsmen license dollars, and federal matching dollars.

Each of Montana's seven FW&P areas has a Block Management index and maps available to the public. The bulletin, which is free of charge, lists all of the block management units in reference to location, contact persons, hunting opportunities, and other information. To request a copy of the southeastern Montana bulletins, write to: Regional Information Officer, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Box 2004, Miles City, MT 59301 or call (406) 232-4365.

To acquire maps and access information in Region 5, southcentral Montana, write to: Regional Information Officer, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105, or phone (406) 247-2940. Phone calls are welcomed to offer the most current information.

"Block Management affords hunting opportunities to many who are new to

the state, new to hunting, or just in search of a different area," says Jay Watson, FW&P BMA coordinator in the Region five office.

The department emphasizes that the Block Management Program has gained in popularity in recent years. They recommend that when you get your bulletin, you make your telephone contact with a block management participant at an early date.

Bureau of Land Management lands are also open to hunting. To acquire maps of these lands, contact the BLM offices at P.O. Box 36800, Billings, MT 59107, (406) 255-2885; or 111 Garryowen Rd, Miles City, MT 59301 (406) 232-4331.

Though trophy animals may be bagged without a guide and outfitter, many hunters enjoy huge success, thanks to the expertise of the people who make spotting game, especially exceptional game, their business. State publications list the licensed guides and outfitters throughout Montana. Write to: Travel Montana, P.O. Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620-0533, or call 1-800-VisitMT. Nonresidents call toll free 1-800-847-4868.

Hunters are also encouraged to write the Billings and Miles City FW&P offices for a complete booklet of current Montana hunting regulations and applications for out-of-state licenses. These are also available at any authorized license outlet, including many sporting goods stores and convenience stores.

24-Hour FW&P Information Line

The Region 5 Fish, Wildlife and Parks headquarters now offers information on a 24-hour phone line. For current facts on seasons, quotas and other seasonal items call (406) 247-2970.

Regulations and Permission

Certain hunting and fishing waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the parks, reservation or refuge involved.

Montanans insist on offering hospitality. In fact, where hunting is concerned, IT'S THE LAW. "Permission to Hunt Big Game—Montana law requires that hunters must have permission of the landowner, lessee or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not."

License Fees & Seasons

Listed here are the license fees for hunting and fishing in Montana in 1996.

License Name	Cost
Resident:	
Conservation.....	\$4
Antelope.....	\$14
Bighorn Sheep	\$78
Bird.....	\$6
Black Bear.....	\$15
Bow and Arrow.....	\$8
Elk.....	\$16
Deer A.....	\$13
Deer B	\$11
Fishing.....	\$13
Moose.....	\$78
Mountain Goat	\$78
Mountain Lion.....	\$15
Mountain Lion Trophy	\$50
Paddlefish	\$5
Sportsman	\$64
Turkey.....	\$5
Upland Game Bird.....	\$6
Waterfowl.....	\$5
Nonresident:	
Conservation.....	\$5
Antelope	\$153
Antelope B	\$50
Bighorn Sheep	\$478
Bird.....	\$55
Black Bear.....	\$120
Bow and Arrow.....	\$8
Deer Combo.....	\$245
Deer Combo, Outfitter	\$515
Deer Combo, Landowner	\$250
Deer B	\$53
Elk Combo	\$475
Elk Combo, Outfitter	\$835
Fish, 2 day	\$10
Fish, season.....	\$45
Moose.....	\$478
Mountain Goat	\$478
Mountain Lion.....	\$320
Paddlefish	\$15
Sheep.....	\$478
Turkey.....	\$13
Upland Game Bird.....	\$55
Waterfowl.....	\$5

Youth and Bowhunter Education Required

All licenses are non-refundable and non-transferable. All hunters ages 12-17 years must show proof of completing a hunter education program before purchasing any hunting license. All bowhunters ages 12-17 years must show proof of completing a course from the National Bowhunter Education Program. Adults (18 or older, first-time) bowhunters must show proof of an NBEP Bowhunter Education Certificate or present any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit or license from any state or province to purchase a Montana bow and arrow license.

1996 Big Game Seasons

Backcountry deer/elk	Sept. 15-Dec. 1
General Deer/elk (gun).....	Oct. 27-Dec. 1
Antelope (gun).....	Oct. 13-Nov. 10
Moose.....	Sept. 15-Dec. 1
Goat.....	Sept. 15-Dec. 1
Bighorn Sheep	Sept. 15-Dec. 1
Deer/elk archery	Sept. 7-Oct. 20
Antelope archery	Sept. 7-Oct. 12
Black bear (Spring)	April 15-May 31
Black bear (Fall).....	Sept. 15-Dec. 1
Lion (hunt)	Dec. 1, 1996-Feb. 15, 1997

Upland Game Bird and Falconry Seasons, 1996

Sage Grouse	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Sharp-tailed Grouse.....	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Mountain Grouse.....	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Mourning Doves.....	Sept. 1-Oct. 30
Common (Wilson's) Snipe.....	Sept. 1-Dec. 16
Sandhill Crane (Pacific Flyway).....	TBA*
Sandhill Crane (Central Flyway)	TBA*
Partridge.....	Sept. 1-Dec. 15
Ring-Necked Pheasant	Oct. 12-Dec. 15
Merriam's Wild Turkey.....	TBA*
.....	April 8-May 7

(Some areas by permit only. Check regulations)

Falconry Season:

Falconry Upland Game Birds	
(except turkey)	TBA*
Falconry Mourning Doves	TBA*

*TBA—These season dates are determined by federal season dates which are not available at press time. Please contact the FW&P offices listed on page 67.

Blue Means "State Lands"

On most ownership and access maps produced by Montana agencies, state lands—usually sections 16 and 36—are the squares colored blue. Use or access of any of these lands requires a Recreational Use License. This license may be purchased at any FW&P office or at any license agent. The cost is \$10 for ages 18-59, \$5 for ages 12-17 and over 60, no charge age 12 and under, and \$20 for a family permit.

Poacher Hotline

Poachers are just about as unpopular in Montana as locusts on ripe wheat.

TIP-MONT, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' toll-free "Turn in Poachers, Montana," hotline celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1995. The program is sportsman-financed. The money to fund it comes out of the general license revenue. And the calls that come in are primarily from sportsmen themselves.

The Montana Legislature passed the TIP-MONT program in 1985, allowing FW&P to set up and operate the 24-hour toll-free hotline.

Calls have led to the arrest and conviction of deer, bear, elk, moose and upland game bird poachers. The department averages ten calls per week. Callers may remain anonymous and do not have to testify in court.

TIP-MONT calls have resulted in the successful prosecution and fining of many poachers, and rewards, accounting for 60 percent of the program's operating budget, have been substantial.

The number is 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668).

Record Game Animals

Trophy hunters have bagged some of the biggest game ever taken in Montana or in the nation in the Custer Country region. Sam Notafraid shot a black bear in Big Horn County in 1972 that scored 20 15/16 in Boone and Crockett. Vern Delesha shot a typical mule deer in 1983 that scored 205 3/8 in the Boone and Crockett listing near Miles City in Custer County. Van Elsen and R. Turnsback shot a non-typical Boone and Crockett mule deer in Bighorn County in 1961 that scored 270 5/8. Gordon Quilling bagged a Pope and Young mule deer in Dawson County in 1957 that scored 180 1/8. In 1993 Christopher Downs put a 176 1/8 Pope and Young mule deer on his wall that he shot in Treasure County. In 1989 Michael Gayheart took a 172 5/8 Pope and Young whitetail deer in Rosebud County.

Dozens of record book pronghorn antelope have been scored in southeastern Montana. The third place Montana position has been held since 1973 by Jim Ollom with a Rosebud County buck that scored 89 6/8. Right behind his record is an 88 1/8 buck taken by Carl Klapp in Carter County in 1955. The second and third largest pronghorn antelope taken in Montana with bow and arrow were the 1984 prize of Robert Labert, who bagged his 82 6/8 buck in Yellowstone County and the 1988 81 6/8 prize of Shawn Wahl, a Rosebud County trophy. Labert also shot a Pope and Young elk in Yellowstone County in 1986 that scored 320 1/8.

A complete book, "Montana's Big Game Trophies," for all species is available from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620. Send \$3.00. The book also details the methods of scoring and trophy body weights.

Game Check Stations

By Bill Pryor

Montana law says all hunters must stop at game check stations. Hunters going to the field or hunters coming home, hunters who harvested an animal, and those who didn't must all stop at check stations. There are three kinds of check stations.

One is a biological check station. Biologists look at deer, elk, and antelope teeth to tell the age. They check the fat to note the animal's health. They clip off bird wings to determine the number of adults compared to juveniles and males to females. They gather



John and Scott Clemens are a happy father and son from Hatfield, PA. The spread between the antlers of this typical four-point mule deer buck makes it a personal trophy for dad. It takes a little time to count the points on the non typical whitetail buck. Such deformities in the antlers are not uncommon.

Powder River Outfitters Photo

the parts and pieces that, when looked at in a study, give a rough picture of how the animals they are checking are faring in that part of Montana.

The second type of check station is a law enforcement stop. It is staffed by game wardens who see to it that state game regulations have been followed during the hunt. The game tags must have the proper month and date snipped out. Evidence of the animal's sex must somehow still be attached to the carcass. (This sometimes causes the hunter to become a creative animal Skinner bound to follow the letter of the "show sex" law.)

Third are combination check stations, staffed by biologists and game wardens. The wardens and biologists process people through as quickly as possible to get them on the road again. **Residency Required**

Are you wondering whether you qualify as a Montana resident or non-resident sports license buyer?

Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials report that state law requires anyone purchasing resident licenses to have been a resident of the state for a period of six months immediately prior to the date those licenses are purchased.

According to a department spokesman, residency is determined by a union of act and intent in addition to the required six months of physical res-

idence and presence as a resident of Montana. Union of act and intent is demonstrated by several factors—paying Montana income taxes, possessing a Montana driver's license, having Montana license plates, maintaining a home and voting in Montana.

Anyone with questions concerning individual circumstances should contact the local game warden of any Fish, Wildlife and Parks office for assistance. **Over-The-Counter Licenses**

Both residents and nonresidents may buy "B" whitetail deer licenses over-the-counter.

All regional FW&P offices carry the licenses, as do some of the license dealers. Anyone with a Montana conservation license is entitled to buy one whitetail B over-the-counter license. The cost of the license is \$8 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents.

The license is valid only in a single region. Hunting regions that have over-the-counter licenses available are 3, 4, 6, and 7. Region 2 has an archery only antlerless whitetail deer over-the-counter license available.

Contact the FW&P offices listed on page 67 to receive a copy of the complete regulations.

The licenses are valid during the regular hunting season in Montana.

All waterfowl and upland game bird licenses may be purchased over-the-counter.

Waterfowl and Upland Game Birds

Many species of waterfowl and upland game birds may be hunted in Montana. Several licenses are required. The general conservation license is a prerequisite for all licenses. It costs \$4 for residents and \$5 for nonresidents. The upland game bird license is \$6 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents. The turkey license is a separate license at an additional \$13 for nonresidents and \$5 for residents. Wild turkeys are abundant in many areas of Custer Country. To hunt waterfowl, both a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and a Montana Waterfowl Stamp are required. The Montana stamp costs \$5 for residents and nonresidents. The Federal Stamp is \$15.

For a complete guide of seasons and regulations, write to the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices in Custer Country. Turn to page 67 for address information.

Waterfowl Stamp

FW&P selected Jim Borggreen's beautiful rendition of two canvasback ducks gracing the sky in front of a striking background of Montana's Rocky Mountain Front at Freezeout Lake in Montana's 1996 state waterfowl stamp competition.

Borggreen, a Montana-born wildlife artist and educator, has been a high school teacher in Lewistown for 21 years. His works have been accepted into national and regional art exhibitions including the C.M. Russell Auction in Great Falls, the National Audubon Wildlife Art Show and the Western Heritage Artist's show.

"One of my earliest and fondest memories is that of accompanying my dad on a duck hunt at Freezeout Lake in the mid-1950s," said Borggreen. The artist has made countless trips to the wetlands since then.

His entry was selected for Montana's 1996 stamp from the 14 Montana residents' entries.

The stamp is available to anyone for \$5. Write to Duck Stamps, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. Proceeds from the sale of the waterfowl stamps and related artwork are used exclusively to develop and enhance Montana's wetlands for the long-term benefit of waterfowl and other wildlife on cooperative private, federal and state-owned lands.

Disability Access

For a number of recreation enthusiasts, disabilities can make participating

in the state's recreational abundance difficult or impossible.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has embarked on a major new program that addresses the needs and rights of recreationists with disabilities.

The program is called "Crossing the Barriers."

At all FW&P regional offices, the

department's headquarters in Helena, and over 40 FW&P-administered sites around the state, parking areas, restrooms and trails have undergone accessibility improvements over the past four years. Through the help of a state study group, the improvements will continue.



Jim Borggreen's canvasbacks are depicted on the 1996 Montana Waterfowl stamp.

Winter Recreation

When the snow is on the ground, Custer Country offers miles of snowmobiling and cross country fun.

Two areas are especially popular with snowmobilers. Near Miles City is the Tongue River Trail. The best place to "put in" is at Spotted Eagle Recreation Area. The trail is right on the shallow, frozen river. Another designated trail is the road through the Makoshika State Park badlands at Glendive. Depending on snow conditions, snowmobiling is allowed on and off the eight mile road.

The "Snowmobile Law and Safety" guide is available through FW&P. Montana requires a nonresident temporary-use permit, which is valid for thirty consecutive days. Snowmobile operators riding on public streets, roads or highways must possess a drivers license; youths must possess a snowmobile education certificate and travel with an adult. To receive the guide and pamphlets on snowmobile safety and avalanche awareness and precautions, write to Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Headquarters, 1420 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620 or phone (406) 444-2535. The Montana Snowmobile Association offers information by contacting them at Box 3202, Great Falls, MT 59403.

A state tourism department publication, "Montana Snowmobiling Guide," including trail systems, rentals, services, lodging and activities throughout the state, is available by writing: Snowmobile Guide, Travel Montana, Helena, MT 59620, or call toll free 1-800-VISIT MT. In Montana, call (406) 444-2654.

For weather reports, contact the National Weather Service, (406) 449-5204.

Cross Country Skiing

Cross country skiing is another winter sport that offers trails of fun. Camps Pass in Custer National Forest is 18 miles east of Ashland on U.S. Highway 212. The trail is designed with two loops, with parking at the trailhead. Each loop is 2 kilometers. They are rated "easy" and "more difficult." The trails are groomed intermittently. For up-to-date information, contact the District Ranger, Custer National Forest, Ashland, MT 59003, (406) 784-2344.

Public Lands

*State and Federal Lands in Custer Country
Offer Recreational Opportunities For All*

State Parks

Listed below is a summary of the ten State Parks in the Custer Country region. "Great Escapes," a guide to Montana's State Parks, by Rick Newby, with more detailed information is available by contacting the Parks Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, Montana 59105, (406) 252-4654 or Highway 10 West, Miles City, Montana 59301, (406) 232-4365. The book sells for \$10.

Some variations are listed below for each area.

MAKOSHIKA

To the Sioux Indians, Ma-ko-shi-ka meant bad earth or bad land. Today the badlands of Makoshika are set aside for visitors to see and enjoy. In addition to the pine-and-juniper-studded badlands formations, the park also holds the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. A visitor center houses a triceratops skull and other badlands interpretive displays. Included within the park are archery and shooting ranges, scenic drives and nature trails, a campground, a group picnic area, and many picnic sites. (On Snyder Ave. in Glendive; 8,800 acres; 2,069' el. (406) 365-6256.)

The park is open year round. Visitor center hours are 9-5 daily. Sunday hours are reduced to 1-5 Oct.-April.

Fees: Daily entrance fee of \$3 per vehicle or \$.50 walk-in. \$5.00 per night camping fee. \$15.00 annual entrance passport good at all state parks.

INTAKE

Northeast of Glendive 17 mi. on Hwy 16 on the Yellowstone River: \$5 camping fee, no entrance fee. The fishing site is famous for paddlefish, catfish, walleye. (406) 365-6256.

MEDICINE ROCKS

As its name implies, Medicine Rocks was a place of "big medicine" where Indian hunting parties conjured up magical spirits. "As fantastically beautiful a place as I have ever seen," said one of its first tourists in the late 1800s, a young rancher named Teddy Roosevelt. Weathering has given the soft sandstone rock formations a Swiss-cheese look. The park is also a haven for mule deer, antelope, and sharp-tailed grouse. (located between Baker and Ekalaka on Montana 7; 316 acres; 3,441' el. (406) 232-4365.)

No fees are charged.



Pictograph Cave State Park visitors learn about the pictures in the sandstone and about the people who made them.

Photo courtesy of Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD

Site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General George Crook's cavalry and infantry. One of the largest Indian battles ever waged in the United States, it set the stage for the Indian victory eight days later when Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his immediate command were wiped out on the Little Bighorn. Self-guided tour with interpretive signs. (25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 1.5 miles west on county road; 3,052 acres; 4,300' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: No charge for entrance to this park. Camping is not allowed. Day use only.

TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR

The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile long reservoir set in the scenic red shale and juniper canyons and open prairies of southeastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here, and the park boasts excellent bass, crappie, and walleye fishing. Four state record fish have been pulled from its waters. (6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road; 640 acres; 3,424' el. (406) 232-4365.)

Fees: Daily entrance fee of \$3 per vehicle or \$.50 walk-in. \$4.00 per night camping fee. \$15.00 annual entrance passport good at all state parks.

EAST ROSEBUD

Campground, adjacent to NE city limits of Forsyth: \$5 camping fee, no entrance fee.

DEADMAN'S BASIN

Deadman's Basin Fishing Access is reached by driving 75 miles northwest of Billings on Highway 3 to Lavina then turning west on Highway 12. The basin is 5 miles west of Ryegate and 19 miles east of Harlowton.

This lake is used mostly for fishing and boating. Other activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, and group reunions.

Large boat ramp, minimal campground areas, outdoor vault restrooms, picnic shelters, picnic tables, fireplaces, and garbage collection system.

Fees: No charge for entrance and camping at this site. (406) 247-2940.

PICTOGRAPH CAVE

This National Historic Landmark is 7 miles southeast of Billings. Take

Lockwood interchange (#452). Then turn south on Coburn Road. Follow the pavement for 3 miles, then the remaining 3 miles will be gravel road. The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days per week from mid-April to mid-October. A self-guided history trail & pamphlet are available.

The site has paved trails to Pictograph Cave and Ghost Cave with interpretive panels along the way explaining the significance of the inhabitation and natural features. Also available are picnic tables, fireplaces, restrooms, benches, a water fountain, and ample parking. Visitors should bring binoculars to help in viewing the pictographs.

Camping is not allowed and pets must be on a leash.

An entrance fee is charged and consists of an annual entrance passport for \$15.00, or \$3.00 per carload. These fees will be used to maintain this site and to make improvements to the facilities.

Brochures are available at various information offices also. Groups need advance reservations, which may be arranged by calling the following numbers: (406) 245-0227 or (406) 247-2955.

LAKE ELMO

Lake Elmo is located in Billings Heights at 2400 Lake Elmo Drive. The lake is popular for swimming, fishing, non-motorized and electric powered boating, sailing, sailboarding, sunbathing, and picnicking. The park is open year-round. Lifeguards supervise the swimming area during summer months.

Concession services include food, beverages, sundries, and watercraft rentals. Overnight camping, pets, and glass bottles are prohibited.

Fees: An entrance fee is charged Memorial Day through Labor Day. Annual entrance passport is \$15.00 or an individual fee of \$1.00 per adult will be required, and 50¢ for children under 11. (406) 247-2940.

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

Chief Plenty Coups Memorial is 35 miles south of Billings I-90 Exit 447. Turn south on Highway 416 following signs to Pryor; then go 1 mile west of Pryor. If you take Lockwood Interchange Exit 452 off I-90, then follow Old Highway 87 south to Hardin Road, then turn south and follow the signs.

The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from May 1 to Sept. 30. The

visitor center/museum is open daily, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition to the museum is Chief Plenty Coups' homestead, the medicine spring and a Memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms and drinking water. Camping is not allowed.

Entrance fees will be charged at the park and can be paid either upon entering the park or at the museum. Fees consist of an annual entrance passport for \$15.00, \$3.00 per carload, or a walk in fee of 50¢ per person.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site. (406) 252-1289.

National Forests

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Custer Forest regions such as the Pryor Mountains are an ideal place to hike, ride mountain bikes, watch birds, view wildlife, picnic, camp, photograph nature, hunt, cross country ski, snowmobile and spot wild horses.

In the Ashland District, east of Ashland, hunting for mule deer and wild turkeys is very good. There are also hiking, camping and some cross country skiing opportunities. Bird watchers can enjoy the 200-plus species of birds that frequent the area.

Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills near Ekalaka, are Custer National Forest lands that provide excellent hunting for mule deer, white-tail deer, and wild turkeys. The Long Pines is noted for the Capitol Rock National Natural Landmark. This area also is known for having a very high density of nesting raptors.

For more information about recreation activities in the Custer National Forest, write to one of the following addresses:

Beartooth Ranger District, Route 2, Box 3420, Red Lodge, MT 59068

Ashland Ranger District, P.O. Box 168, Ashland, MT 59003

Sioux Ranger District, Box 37, Camp Crook, SD 57724

Custer National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Box 2556, Billings, MT 59103 (406) 657-6361

Camping



Camping comes in all styles in Custer Country. Quick, easy set-up is offered at many private campgrounds. Some campgrounds and camping areas are more rustic.

Photo courtesy of KOA Campgrounds

is charged. *Rosebud (West Unit)*, managed by FWP also, is W of Forsyth on US 12 at S end of Yellowstone River Bridge, milepost 270. It is open year round. Ten camping spaces are available; trailers are allowed. Toilets are available. Bring your drinking water. A two-wheel drive with trailer boat launch, and fishing are available. Stay limit is 14 days. No fee is charged.

Near *Glendive* are two campgrounds. *Intake* is famous for paddelfishing. Managed by FWP, it is 16 mi. N of Glendive on MT 16, S on a county road. It has 40 camping spaces, with trailers allowed. Toilets and drinking water are available. A boat launch for two-wheel drive vehicles with trailer is available, and various fishing. Stay limit is 14 days. A fee is charged. *Makoshika Campground*, managed by FWP, is 2 mi. SE of Glendive through residential section on Snyder Ave. It is open all year. Six camping spots are available; trailers are allowed. It offers handicap toilets and drinking water. Nature/interpretive trails lead through badlands. The 14 day stay limit has both day-use and overnight fee charges.

Huntley Diversion Dam near *Huntley* is 1 mile W of I-94 Huntley Exit on a gravel road. It is open all year and offers camping. A boat launch requires a 4-wheel drive with a trailer. Fishing is available. The stay limit is 14 days.

Riverside Park in *Laurel*, Highway 212 S, on the banks of the Yellowstone River, is a community campground for 100 tents and RV's. Fees are charged. Some hook-ups are available. Barbecue and picnic facilities, toilets and drinking water are available. A boat launch is available for two-wheel drive vehicles with a trailer.

Barry's Landing Campground, managed by the National Park Service, is 27 miles N of *Lovell*, WY on WY 37. Open all year, it has 9 camping spots for trailers. Toilets are handicap accessible. The boat launch accommodates 2-wheel drives with a trailer. There is fishing there, and hiking trails are developed. The stay limit is 14 days.

The Cow Creek Campground is located 8 miles north of *Otter* on Forest Rd. 51, then 5 miles W on Forest Rd. 95. It is managed by the Forest Service. It is open May 15 to November 1 and has eight camping spaces and accommodates trailers up to 32 ft. It has toilets and drinking water. It offers fishing. The stay limit is 14 days, and a fee is charged.

The CowBelle Campground at *Roundup*

Camping facilities are available in Custer Country at most fishing access sites, and at public and private campgrounds.

Following is a list of public campgrounds and services, and towns near which they are located. *The Afterbay Campground* is a National Park Service facility, located near the town of *Ft. Smith*, 1 mile NE of *Yellowtail Dam*. It is open all year, has 48 camping spaces, trailers allowed, toilets have handicap access, drinking water available, boat launch for 2-wheel drive with trailer, fishing, no swimming, and nature/interpretive trails; stay limit is 14 days, no fees charged.

Near *Ashland* is *Red Shale Campground*, managed by the Forest Service. It is 6 mi. SE of *Ashland* on US 212. It is open May 11 to Nov. 15, has 14 camping spaces and allows trailers to 32 ft. It has toilets and drinking water, a 14 day stay limit. A fee is charged.

Medicine Rocks Campground is 25 miles south of *Baker* on MT 7. Development is primitive at this Fish, Wildlife and Parks managed site. It is open all year and offers camping for trailers up to 20 ft. Toilets and water are available. The stay limit is 14 days and a fee is charged.

Ekalaka has three public camp-

grounds nearby. *Ekalaka Park*, a Forest Service campground, is 3 miles SE of *Ekalaka* on Rt. 323, 1 mile W on a county road, 5 miles S on forest service road 813. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has 9 camping spaces, allows trailers up to 16 ft., has toilets and drinking water and a 14 day stay limit. No fee is charged. *Lantis Spring* is also a Forest Service campground and is 3 mi. W of *Camp Crook*, SD, on Hwy 20 SE of *Ekalaka*, 11 mi. NW on forest service road 117. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15 also, with 5 spaces, allows trailers up to 16 ft., has toilets and drinking water and a 14 day stay limit. No fee is charged. *Macnab Pond* Forest Service campground is 7 mi. SE of *Ekalaka* on Rt. 323, 1 mi. E on the county road. It is open May 1 to Nov. 15, has camping spaces, allows trailers up to 22 ft. It has toilets and drinking water, fishing, and a stay limit of 14 days. No fee is charged.

Two public campgrounds are near *Forsyth*. The *Rosebud (East Unit)*, managed by Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, is off I-94 at *Forsyth*, E Exit, N to *Yellowstone River*. It is open year round. Ten camping spaces are available; trailers are allowed. There are toilets and drinking water. There is a boat launch for two-wheel drive with trailer, and fishing. Stay limit is 14 days. A fee

is located at the fairgrounds on the southeastern edge of town. It offers overnight camping and RV parking, barbecue pits and good shade. No fee.

The Tongue River Reservoir

Campground is managed by FWP and is 6 mi. N of Decker on Hwy 314, 1 mi. E on a county road. It is open all year. It has 100 camping spaces and trailers are allowed. It has toilets and drinking

water. A boat launch is available for two-wheel drive vehicles with trailers. Fishing is offered. The stay limit is 14 days with both day-use and overnight fee scales.

Private campgrounds are available in nearly every town in Custer Country. Ask locally or refer to the Montana Travel Planner for complete listings. Advertisers below invite you to enjoy their facilities



Some campgrounds offer an authentic, early-day "camping" experience in teepees. Round arbors, constructed of poles and leafy branches, like the one pictured here, are used for shade. Hundreds of teepees, arranged in patterns, and arbors cover the campgrounds at Crow Agency during Crow Fair.

Gloria Wester Photo

~Camping in Custer Country~

TOWN	NAME/LOCATION (*all phone number use area code prefix (406))	SEASON	# Tent	# RV	Teepees	Water	Electric	Dump	Shower	Laundry	Store	Cable TV	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. PAGE REFERENCE
BAKER	Roy's Motel-Campground, 778-3321, 327 W. Montana Ave.	All Yr.	6	15	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Hot tub, nearby pool, golf course, fairgrounds - Pg. 16
BALLANTINE	Van's Interstate Trailer Court, I-94 Exit 14, 967-3855	All Yr.	10	20	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Restaurant, bar, 8 miles to golf course
BROADUS	Wayside Mobile/RV Park AAA, 436-2510, 1.5 mi. west at junction US 212 & MT 59	All Yr.	20	18	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Next to 9-hole golf course
CROW AGENCY	Little Bighorn Camp, I-90 Exit 510, 638-2232	4/15-11/1	20	26	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	8 unit Motel, gas, laundromat, C-Store, near Battlefield
CUSTER	Fort Custer Restaurant & Campground, 856-4191, Hwy 47 & I-94, 1 mi. E of Custer	All Yr.	6	6	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Restaurant & Bar - Pg. 100
EKALAKA	Cline Camper Court, 775-6231, W of town near fairgrounds	5/1-12/1	6	15	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Swimming Pool, Medicine Rocks nearby
FORSYTH	Wagon Wheel Campground, 356-2454, I-94 Exit 95 1/2 mi. So of Interstate	4/1-10/31	10	10	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Fishing, restaurant, pool, museum, within 1.5 mi.-Pg. 55
FORT SMITH	Cottonwood Camp, 666-2391, 3 mi. north on Rt. 313	All Yr.	50	15	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Fishing - Pg. 94
GLENDIVE	Glendive Campground, 365-6721, I-94 Exit 215, N of I-94	4/1-10/1	7	50	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Playgmd, restaurants, motels near - Pg. 31
	Green Valley Campground, 365-4156, I-94 Exit 213, 1/2mi. N	4/1-11/1	50	42	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Fee fishing, playground, rec room - Pg. 31
HARDIN	Grandview Campground, 665-2489, I-90 Exit 495, 3/4 mi. S on Rt 313	All Yr.	40	60	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Gift shop, pool, tennis, playground - 1 block - Pg. 87
	Hardin KOA, 665-1635, I-90 Exit 495, 1.25 mi. N on MT 47	4/1-9/30	18	53	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Swim Pool, hot tub, camping cabins, playgmd - Pg. 88
	Sunset Village, 665-3244, I-90 Exit 495, 1.8 mi. S on Hwy 313	All Yr.	10	37	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Playground, nearby pool, tennis courts - Pg. 82
INGOMAR	Jersey Lilly Campground, Hwy 12, 358-2278	All Yr.	10	12	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Bar, Cafe, Park, Playground, Pg. 104
LAUREL	Pelican RV Park, 628-4324, Fax 406-628-8442, I-90 Exit 437	All Yr.	40	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	24 hr. restaurant, log cabins, propane - Pg. 124
MILES CITY	Miles City KOA, 232-3991, I-94 Exit 135, Go 2.4 mi, L at 4th St, L at Palmer	4/1-10/31	32	58	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Heated pool, playgmd, walk to town, museum - Pg. 46
TERRY	Diamond Campground, 637-5407, I-94 Terry Exit, 1 mi. N	4/15-10/15	20	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Restaurant next door - Pg. 34
	Terry RV Oasis, 637-5520 or 637-5508, I-94 Exit 176, 1st St left 10 blks.	5/1-10/30	8	12	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Shady, green and clean - Pg. 34
WIBAUX	Maus Trailer Court, 102 E. Nolan, 795-2344	5/1-9/30	2	7	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Park, playground, walk to downtown, & swimming pool - Pg. 15



Photo by
Donna Delp

Prairie Vocalist

The Montana state bird is the mountain meadowlark. Besides being a fun bird species to spot, the meadowlark has an unmistakable song.

When watching for the meadowlark, look across the prairies, cultivated meadows, valleys and grassy plains all across the state. You will note the unmistakable yellow

breast, set off by a black swath—like a bandana—draped around the bird's neck.

In April or May, meadowlarks build their nests on the ground among grasses, where they lay three to seven eggs. Working together, the pairs first find or scratch out a depression in the grass, and carefully line the nest with a layer of coarse grass, followed by fine grass and hair.

Then they construct a grass roof, woven into surrounding vegetation and finish with an entrance hole on one side.

If a nest is destroyed by mowing or other mishap early in the nesting season, the hardy birds start over.

Montana takes care of the meadowlark and other such animals in its "Nongame Wildlife Program."

Rockhound's Paradise

The Yellowstone River in Eastern Montana is renowned worldwide for the quality and abundance of agates found on its shores. Montana's agates, sometimes called plume or moss agates, are famous for the variety of scenic designs sealed permanently in the stone's interior. Montana agate occurs in a variety of patterns, from those with red and dark brown bands to the prized dendritic forms.

Agate is a translucent rock with rough skin. It occurs primarily in terrace gravel deposits high on the hills above the Yellowstone River and its tributaries, as well as in the sand and gravel bars within the streams and rivers themselves. Since the gravel within streams and rivers is constantly shifting, these are probably the best areas to search.

Guided agate-hunting boat tours are available. Contact the Glendive Chamber (406) 365-5601 or write: P.O. Box 930, Glendive, MT 59330 for guide service information and self-guided agate hunting opportunities.

Hunting for agates is a fun and unique recreation for visitors to southeastern Montana.

Geology is both productive and aes-

thetic in Custer Country. One of the world's largest coal supplies lies just under the surface cover near Colstrip and offers the fruit of its industry.

Lewis and Clark's Expedition of 1804-1806 first recorded the unusual rock formations of the southeastern Montana region. From the rimrocks that frame the Billings valley, to Pompeys Pillar (a sandstone formation rising from "nowhere," named by and inscribed by Captain William Clark), to the beauty of the badlands of Glendive's Makoshika State Park, the geology offers a rewarding excursion through Custer Country.

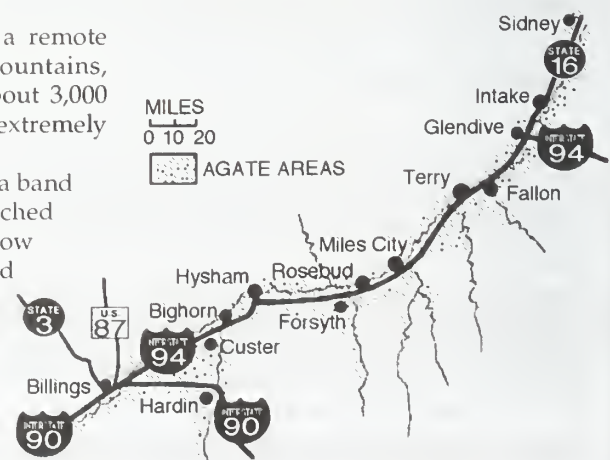
The Pryor Mountains are a remote collection of limestone mountains, ranging in elevation from about 3,000 feet to 8,000 feet. They are extremely rich in archaeological sites.

In the Terry badlands area, a band of dark gray shale is sandwiched between layers of light yellow sandstone and capped by red clinker, formed when burning coal seams baked adjacent rock layers. The contrasts are beautiful, especially during sunrise and sunset. The

badlands appear harsh from a distance, since weathered hillsides support little vegetation; however, the area is surprisingly diverse in plant and animal life.

Look for gnarled limber pine, remnants of a past climate, growing well east of their normal range. To explore, take the Terry exit from I-94 and travel two miles north on MT Hwy 253. Turn west off the highway at the "Scenic Overlook" sign, and drive approximately six miles on gravel road to the overlook. (Caution: this road is impassable when wet.)

Many books are available in the region to help unlock the geology and archaeology secrets of Montana.



The story of Custer Country In Print

Many Montana book publishers offer everything from the "Rocky Mountain Berry Book" to "Game is Good Eating," "Bighorn Canyon" and "Digging Dinosaurs."

Four books of special interest include "Montana Bird Distribution," detailing bird sightings in the state through 1991 from Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620. The cost is \$7 including postage. "Next Year Country: a History of Eastern Montana" by Don Baker is available from book stores in the region. "Adventure Trails in Montana" by John Willard is a condensed history of the state plus a historic map. It sells for \$10.95, postage included, autographed: Adventure Trails, 3119 Country Club Circle, Billings, MT 59102. "Ghosts of the Old West" by Earl Murray tells of mystical encounters on Montana's battlefields and in early towns. It is available in book stores, or autographed: WestWord, 624 Cottonwood Ave., Laurel, MT 59044 for \$4.99 plus postage.

The following publishers may be contacted for catalogs or for books, calendars or posters on specific subjects:

American & World Geographic Publishing/Montana Magazine, P.O. Box 5630, 3020 Bozeman Street, Helena, MT 59604, phone (406) 443-2842 or 1-800-821-3874.

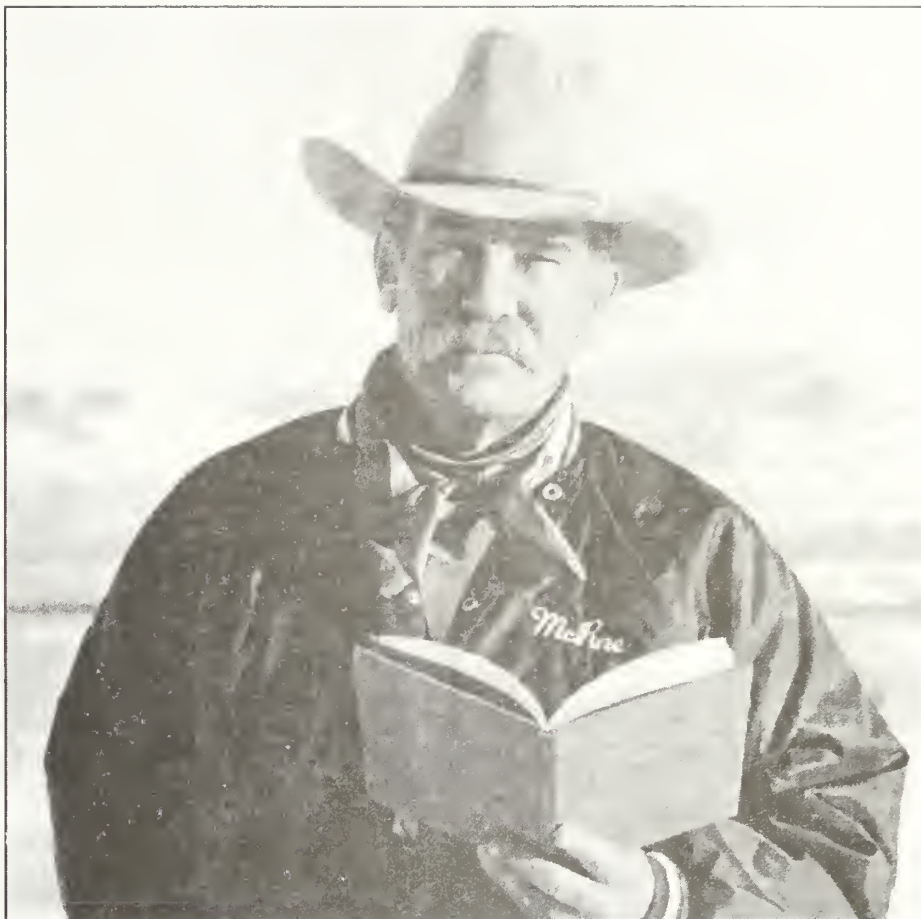
The Billings Gazette, 401 North Broadway, P.O. Box 31635, Billings, MT 59107-1635, phone (406) 657-1200.

Falcon Press, P.O. Box 1718, Helena, MT 59624, phone 1-800-582-2665.

Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-9990, phone (406) 444-2694.

Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2016 Strand Ave., P.O. Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806, phone (406) 728-1900.

Stoney Dale Press Publishing Company, 205 Main Street, Drawer B, Stevensville, MT 59870, phone (406) 777-2729.



One of Custer Country's renowned authors is cowboy poet, Wally McRae. He not only writes about the "salty cusses" who settled the West, but also gives live presentations of his poems. Books, tapes, and videos of McRae's writings and the works of other Montana authors are available in gift and book stores throughout the state.

Peter de Lory Photo

Hiking Trails

You will truly enjoy recreation every step of the way when you hike the many trails in Custer Country.

A Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks publication, titled "Take a Hike" is available by writing: Hiking, FWP, 1420 E. 6th St., Helena, MT 59620.

Trail walks are designated at Little Bighorn Battlefield where Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's troops met the Teton Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. Interpretive trails lead visitors through the details of the Reno-Benteen battle at Little Bighorn Battlefield.

The Ashland Ranger District of Custer National Forest has three riding and hiking areas that total about 40,000 acres—Cook Mountain, King Mountain, and Tongue River Breaks. The Pryor Mountains unit of the Beartooth Ranger District, south of Billings, offers excellent hiking, hunting, and snowmobiling. Sioux Ranger

District, in the southeast corner of Montana, has riding and hiking opportunities, also. National Forest maps are available at Forest Service offices in Ashland and Billings (see page 67).

Om-Ne-A Trail is a 3-mile trail, following the Bighorn Canyon rim from the Yellowtail Dam to the Ok-A-Beh boat ramp. The trail begins at the south end of the parking area at the dam.

Hiking trails are designated at Makoshika State Park in Glendive; at Medicine Rocks State Park, between Ekalaka and Baker; at Riverfront Park in Billings; and along most fishing access sites.

Enjoy exercising horses in the greenery along the banks of the Yellowstone River at Riverfront Park in Billings. Take I-90 Exit 447, then South Billings Blvd. There is plenty of room to park horse trailers. The equestrian trail is five miles long.

Local chambers are the best source for information on bicycle and mountain bike trails.



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**One Hour
Photo Finishing**

Miles City, the county seat of Custer County, is truly a roughneck cowboy delight. Featured as the town where Gus McRae died in the ABC Mini-series "Lonesome Dove," the city is today a thriving, up-to-date community which holds to its western culture with great pride and perseverance. Historically speaking, Miles City came into existence on the heels of a military expedition sent into the Valley from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, following the Battle of the Little Bighorn, on June 25, 1876, when Gen. Custer and his immediate command of five troops of the 7th Cavalry were annihilated by the Sioux Indians led by Sitting Bull.

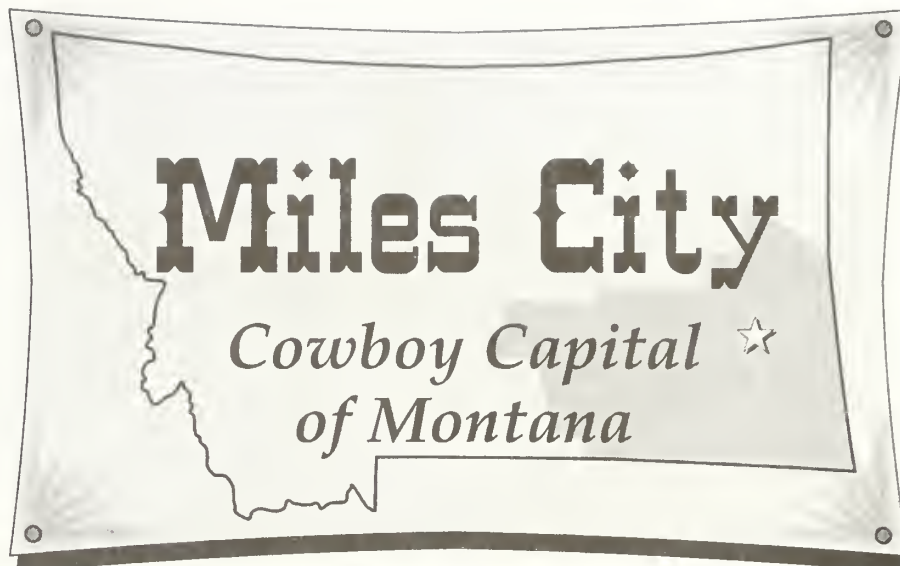
Miles City had a notable birthing. Col. (later Gen.) Nelson A. Miles, in command of the six companies of the 5th Cavalry stationed at Fort Leavenworth the summer of 1876, received orders to proceed to the Yellowstone Valley in Montana, and there to establish a cantonment from which he was to conduct a campaign to compel bands of wandering Indians to return to their reservations.

Arriving early in the fall, Miles conferred with Gen. Alfred E. Terry, commanding the Department of the Dakotas, who was still in the field following the Custer massacre. He selected a site at the mouth of the Tongue River on which to build the cantonment. The Army engineers surveyed the tract of land 10 miles square and established a reservation. It was just across this reservation on the east of the south bank of the Yellowstone River that the first village was set up. A year later when the War Department abandoned it, the village "moved" itself, cabins and appurtenances, to the present site. The new community was named "Miles City" in honor of the commanding officer. While the village was founded in 1877, it was not until 1887 that Miles City was incorporated.

As the cattle industry was most important, it was fitting that the Montana Stockgrowers' Association was formed in Miles City in 1884. The coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1881 predetermined that Miles City should become a leading cattle market.

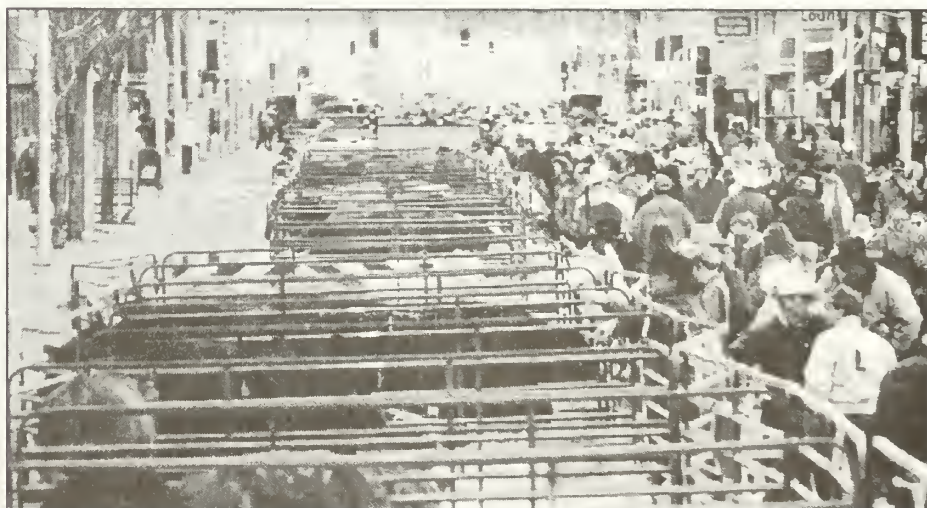
Breeder Show

One day during the first week in February every year, Main Street is filled with pens displaying various breeds of young bulls. Many people



This homestead parlor was the place for spinning yarn, playing music and raising a family. It is one of the many displays at the Miles City Range Riders Museum.

John Riggs Photo



Miles City holds an annual Cowtown Beef Breeders Show, Craft Expo, and Agriculture Trade Show. The streets are filled with livestock pens, sellers and buyers.

John Riggs Photo



Excitement comes by the ton at rodeo time. Riders cinch one hand tight to great rodeo stock at the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale and at the Eastern Montana Fair. The eight second ride demands anticipation of the leaps and turns of the bulls, keeping balanced and holding on.

John Riggs Photo

besides cattle producers come to the show and sale.

No Parking Meters

Contemporary Miles City has not been swept up by the winds of change which have threatened to shape look-alike communities across the nation. Miles City still has a traditional American Main Street with a dime store lunch counter and a saloon painstakingly restored to its early decor. There are no parking meters!

The 9,000 area residents are good hosts who enjoy talking about the many historic photographs proudly displayed, about the hunting and fishing in the area and about some of the "characters" who fashioned the town's personality. But the local Chamber of Commerce's motto, "Proud Past: Progressive Future" also describes Miles City. The community's many services have made it the hub of Southeastern Montana—the center of vacation-time attractions.

General Nelson A. Miles

General Nelson A. Miles, a very close friend of Col. George Armstrong Custer, had outstanding influence in the opening of the West.

By his uniquely successful military campaigns, his humane negotiations and post-capitulation treatment of the various Indian tribes, he was able to establish and maintain peace.

The World Famous Miles City Jaycee Bucking Horse Sale

Miles City pays homage to the horse during the third weekend of May at the Miles City Jaycee Bucking Horse Sale, the biggest and most famous annual event in Miles City. Rodeo stock contractors from many states come to Miles City to watch the best of the wild, undomesticated horses buck.

The best horses are sold in auction, and appear in rodeos all over the United States.

Other activities such as western barbecues, Western Art Quick Draw, a cowboy poet gathering, dancing in the streets, and western parade draw huge crowds. Early reservations for accommodations are recommended. Call the Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce for more information (406) 232-2890.

Range Riders Museum

With the addition of the Bert Clark Gun Collection, the Range Riders Museum has truly become one of the finest in the Northwest. The collection, numbers in excess of 400 pieces. It includes pieces from the Revolutionary War era, and the firearms used by the early settlers and military personnel. It also includes such exotics as a set of duelling pistols from Belgium and an elephant gun, one of only eight manufactured and one of four known to exist today.

The museum complex is set on the original site of the Fort Keogh cantonment. It has grown to include the main building, the Clark Gun Collection Building, Memorial Hall, Fort Keogh's Officers Quarters Building, the Heritage Center, and an original log cabin. Each unit has its own story to tell; yet each is a part of the overall history of the West.

The items on display at the museum are as diverse as the Montana landscape. It is a must that you stop while traveling through the great state of Montana. The time spent, whether it be for one hour or one day, will give you a better insight into the hardships and the

"Turn of the Century" Atmosphere



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**Miles City, Montana 59301
(406) 232-9872**



The Great American Cattle Drive of 1995 trailed cattle from Fort Worth, Texas to Miles City, Montana. The town where Lonesome Dove's Gus McRae died was ready for the arrival of the drive with one of the biggest western celebrations ever thrown. Folks from miles around lined the streets.

John Brewer Photo

adverse conditions the early day settlers overcame to make this such a great country. The museum is indeed a lasting tribute to these early day pioneers.

Custer County Art Center

Custer County Art Center, located in a park overlooking the Yellowstone River, is a non-profit institution providing quality visual art exhibits and programming.

The art center has two large, elegant galleries and an alcove gallery, with changing exhibitions throughout the year, from its permanent collection and exhibitions from around the United States and a gift shop.

The Western Art Roundup and a Quick Draw in the park coincide with the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale in May.



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Old West Photographers

Miles City has a love affair with old photographs which have captured the pioneer lifestyles of stock growers, cavalry officers and their troops, merchants and social life. The interrupted lifestyle of the Indians is also portrayed. Some of the intrepid early photographers include favorites, Christian Barthelmess, featured at the Range Riders Museum; Lady Evelyn Cameron; local "character," J. R. Morrison; and L.A. Huffman, whose photos have enjoyed national and international distribution.

These photos can be seen at the museum, at the Custer County Art Center, and at Riggs Camera and Gifts.

Golf Course
If you're looking for a little pleasant exercise in an equally pleasant setting, you can't do much better than Miles City's Town and Country Club, located on the southwest corner of town on the east banks of the Tongue River. The nine-hole course combines the aesthetics of relaxing cottonwood-shaded greenery with contours that can be a challenge.

The club is open to the public through greens fees, and its many social functions are often open to the

general public as well. Call for a tee time (406) 232-1500.

Natural Oasis

The pause that refreshes on a hot summer day is a dip in Miles City's unique outdoor municipal pool, a "natural oasis," located next to the city park which is perfect for picnicking or just relaxing. Just a short distance from the pool is a recreation area which has boating facilities. Plenty of fishing sites may be found along the Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers, and a number of reservoirs in the Miles City area are also available for fishing. A variety of other recreational activities are available: tennis, golf, bowling, racquetball, movies, and river floating.

Eastern Montana Fair

The Eastern Montana Fair is a four-day event beginning in August. Attractions include rodeos, tractor pulls, demolition derby, plus commercial exhibits and a carnival. Many other special activities will be taking place in the '96 Eastern Montana Fair.

Accommodations

Miles City has 17 restaurants, including both sit-down and fast food types, two supper clubs, and four lunch counters. The eating establishments are conveniently located in three areas: Downtown, Haynes Avenue and Valley Drive East.

Overnight lodging is available in the same areas. There are 11 hotels/motels with a total of 500 units, as well as a campground facility located on either end of town.

Tour Loops

Tour loop suggestions and directions to explore the cultural and historic sites in and around Miles City are available in the Miles City Visitors Guide, free at the Chamber of Commerce (located downtown, 406-232-2890) and from local businesses. The guide also has

maps and brief histories of sites and highlights wildlife viewing areas.

1996 Miles City Events

March: CCAC Student Art Exhibit.....	28-April 28
April: Springfest.....	19-20
May: CCAC Western Art Roundup.....	2-July 7
Jaycee Bucking Horse Sale.....	17-19
CCAC Quick Draw and Art Auction.....	18
June: Hot Air Balloon Roundup..	21-23
Fort Keogh Days 5th Infantry Encampment.....	June 29-30
July: Bill Newhouse Legion Baseball Tourney.....	3-7
Fireworks.....	4
CCAC Miles City on the River	11-Aug. 25
Classic Car Club Show.....	13
Highland Festival	20
Aug.: Eastern MT Fair	22-25
Sept.: CCAC 21st Annual Art Auction Exhibit	Aug. 29-Sept. 28
Ram Sale.....	12
Farmer/Rancher Banquet.....	14
Art Auction	Sept. 28
Oct.: CCAC Northwest Print Council & Computer Print.....	3-Nov. 10
Nov.: CCAC Still Water Society Exhibit	14-Dec. 31
Christmas Market.....	22-23
Dec.: Christmas Stroll	6
Christmas Auction	12-20

General Nelson A. Miles

General Nelson A. Miles, a very close friend of Col. George Armstrong Custer, had outstanding influence in the opening of the West.

By his uniquely successful military campaigns, his humane negotiations and post-capitulation treatment of the various Indian tribes, he was able to establish and maintain peace.



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Try Your Luck!

Gambling is legal in Montana

Montana has legalized limited gambling, including machine poker and keno, live card games and bingo. As a visitor to Custer Country, you will find many friendly taverns, clubs and casinos that offer the unique opportunity to step back in time and try your luck!

Five-card draw, seven-card stud, and hold-'em are the most popular live poker games in the area. There is a \$300 pot limit on the stakes.

Video poker pits player against machine in a game of five-card draw. Most machines take quarters, but many businesses have nickel machines, too. After placing a bet, the player is dealt five cards on the screen. The player then has the chance to discard in order to improve the hand. Winning hands are possible through a variety of combinations. Machines vary, some including "jacks or better" payoffs and some adding a "wild card." The pay-off is from 1 to 50 times the bet to a maximum of \$100 on a quarter bet. Up to eight quarters may be played on a bet with \$800 maximum payoff.

Keno is also legal in both live and video versions. The game of keno, originally a form of Chinese bingo, is based on random numbers. After placing a bet, the player picks from 1 to 10 numbers out of 80. By computer, the machine randomly selects and marks 20 numbers on the screen. Payouts are made according to how many of the player's numbers match the machine's numbers. The maximum pay-off is up to \$800, again based on the amount wagered.

All gambling machines are monitored by the Montana Department of Justice and guarantee an 80% or better winning pay-out. Many establishments also offer bingo. Pari-mutuel horse racing, whether it is live or is simulcast-beamed by satellite, is also legal in Montana. The state produces a lottery with \$1 tickets available through retail outlets. Changing games add to the excitement of the lottery. Montana Cash Lottery is a state lottery. A \$1 ticket lets the player choose two panels of five numbers. Matching 3 out of 5 pays \$5, 4 out of 5 pays \$200, 5 out of 5 wins



the jackpot. The jackpot starts at \$20,000 and \$10,000 or more is added each week until it's won. (The state's earnings help fund education.) The state also participates in Tri-West Lotto and Powerball lottery with other states. The Powerball stakes are worth millions. Six numbers are drawn every Saturday and Wednesday night.

So, pardner, you're legal to try your luck at these games while you are in Montana and Custer Country.

Good luck!...and that's no bluff!



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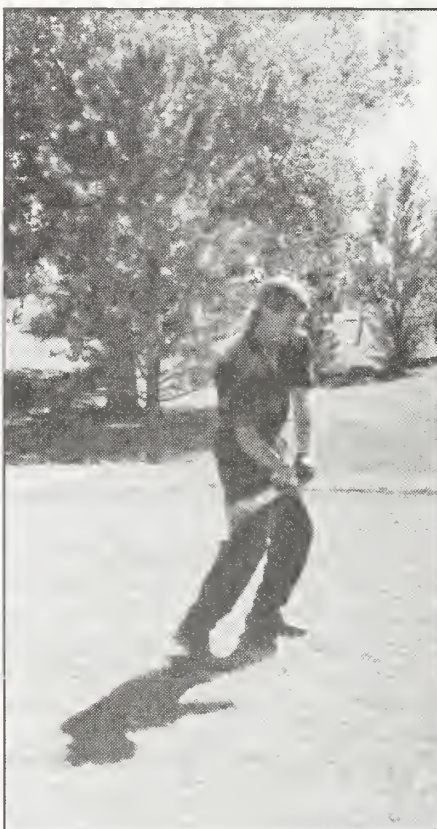


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Forsyth Golf Course welcomes visitors to play.

Gloria Wester Photo

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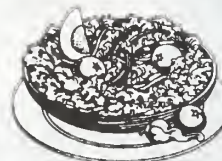
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Downtown Forsyth

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Forsyth, the county seat of Rosebud County, is a congenial city of about 2,500 friendly folks. Located on the banks of the Yellowstone River at the junction of I-94 and U.S. Highway 12, Forsyth was founded in 1880 and officially named when the post office and Northern Pacific Railroad were established there in 1882. The town was named after General James H. Forsyth, the first U.S. Army officer to land by steamer at the site of the present town.

Lewis and Clark Trail

In the exploration of the great Northwest Territory, Capt. William Clark passed through Rosebud County on July 28, 1806 en route down the Yellowstone River to meet Meriwether Lewis, who was traveling down the Missouri River. Forsyth is located along what is known as the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Top Notch Hunting

If hunting and fishing spark your fancy, the Forsyth area will certainly appeal to you. Big game hunting includes trophy antelope as well as mule deer and whitetail deer.

Upland birds? You bet! Through the cooperation of Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and area landowners, a few minutes in your vehicle puts you smack dab in the middle of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, partridges and wild turkeys.

Small Town Comforts

Forsyth provides the comforts of friendly small-town living, along with recreation that only Montana can offer. The friendly people of Forsyth invite you to visit, live, and play in southeastern Montana, in Custer Country.

Custer Was Here

Near the town of Rosebud, just nine miles east of Forsyth, is the spot where General Custer camped at the mouth of Rosebud Creek before traveling up that creek on his way to the



Little Bighorn in his ill-fated campaign against the Indians. His trek to the Little Bighorn (formerly Custer) Battlefield, 100 miles south of Forsyth, is marked, showing some of the embattlements from his Indian skirmishes.

Interested in Recreation?

A variety of recreational opportunities is available in the Forsyth area. Parks provide activities including football, track, baseball and softball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming and wading pools, bathroom facilities, covered grandstands and grassy play areas. There are also ice skating rinks, tourist parks, and lighted tennis courts.

Boating and fishing excitement flow with the wide Yellowstone River, right next to Forsyth. Two state parks give

access to the river, with plenty of camping and picnic space.

In winter, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular in the Forsyth area, and downhill skiing in the mountains is only three hours away.

Golf Anyone?

About a mile and a half west of Forsyth is the Forsyth Country Club with its beautiful nine-hole golf course with well-maintained fairways and greens, along with sand traps and water hazards to test your skills.

Forsyth's golf course schedules a full slate of summer tournaments. Visitors are welcome to participate in many of them. For a schedule or details call (406) 356-7710.

Agate Hunting

The surrounding area abounds in agates. The Montana moss agates are modules of gray, translucent chalcedony which, when cut and polished, are seen to contain small manganese dendrites of pleasing appearance. Enthusiastic agate hunters visit the Yellowstone River banks each year, and lapidary work is the hobby of many.

Pioneer Museum

Situated next to the courthouse is the Rosebud County Pioneer Museum



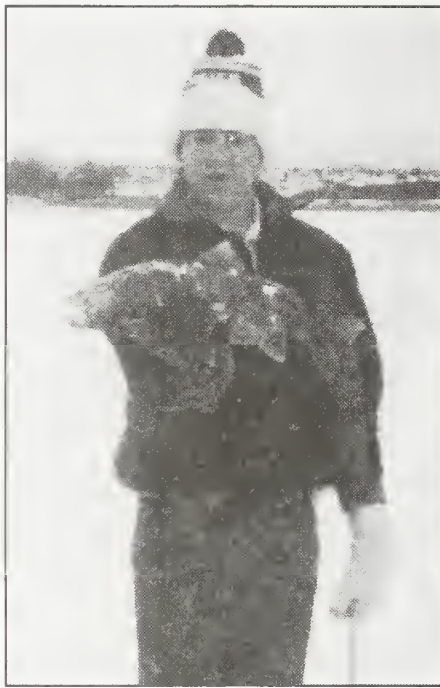
Ranching operations involve all hands at spring branding and vaccinating time. The early-day practice of branding identifies the owner of the cattle. It helps get stray calves back to their rightful owners.

Donna Delp Photo



There are plenty of lunkers for a catfish fry near Forsyth in the summer, and fishing around the Forsyth area just gets better when winter comes, according to the ice fishermen.

Jim Fulton Photos



which you may visit for a glimpse of the past, including items used by early settlers, and many pictures of things and people as they were "in the olden days."

Hours: May 1-15, 1-7; May 15 to September 15, 9-7 Monday thru Saturday, 1-7 Sundays.

Sizzling Summer Fun

Summertime is when Forsyth really kicks up its heels.

The first major summer event is Forsyth Rodeo Days, which will be held May 31, June 1-2 in 1996. Team roping is held the first day, followed by two action-packed days of NRA sanctioned rodeo. To top it off, leading bull riders from the northern area compete in the exciting "Bullmania" event. The Rodeo Days Parade is held Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

In late July, the Yellowstone River Duck Festival features eastern Montana's original rubber duck race, plus a downtown street dance with live country music. It's a shindig you shouldn't miss!

August 1-4 brings the Rosebud-Treasure County Fair—four days of rodeo, exhibits, carnival, dancing and fun, topped off with a demolition derby and big-name entertainment.

Down to Business

While oil, coal, and lumbering are among the top industries in the area, dryland and irrigated farming are

prominent, and the raising of beef cattle and good quality horses ranks among the top activities in the area. Thousands of cattle are shipped to market from this area annually. Many horses are trained and shown throughout the northwest.

Sheep and wool are also of economic importance in the county.

Forsyth can accommodate the traveler in all needs, having hotels, motels, a variety of cafes and restaurants, a theatre, a modern, fully equipped hospital, doctors, dentists, optometrists and chiropractors. The emergency medical service personnel are highly trained and equipped. There are gas stations, grocery and clothing stores, pharmacy, flower shop, crafts shop, and a variety of gift shops. Tillitt Field, located three miles east of Forsyth, is a county operated airport with terminal service.

National Register Building

The Rosebud County Courthouse, located in Forsyth, is a neoclassical, three-story building, capped with an ornate copper dome. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The top floor of the courthouse, including the courtroom, is decorated with murals and stained glass. Directly under the copper dome, in the ceiling of the foyer, is a large, circular, stained-glass window. This courthouse is not your run-of-the-mill public building, and is well worth a stop to view.

Rosebud County

Rosebud County, established in 1901, is the third largest county in the fourth largest state in the U.S. It is more than four times the size of the state of Rhode Island.

In the southern portion of the county is the Northern Cheyenne Reservation with a population of 3,100. The Cheyennes are "The Morning Star People."

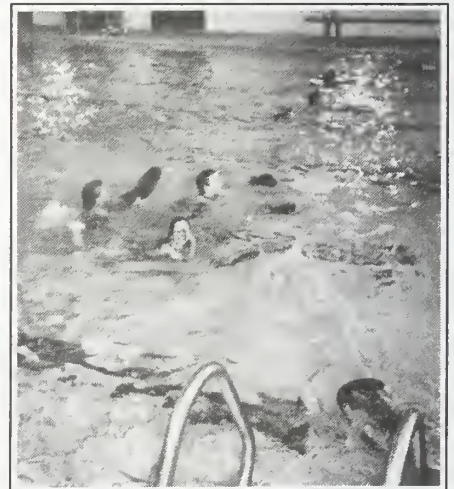
Also of interest in the county are St. Labre Indian School at Ashland, and Colstrip, the site of one of the largest strip coal mines in the state.

In the town of Rosebud, a site of interest is a non-denominational church which is the oldest continuously operating church in the state.

Far West State Recreation Area: 1 mile north of Rosebud on Secondary 446, then 1/2 mile west on county road.

Rosebud State Recreation Area (East Unit): I-94 at Forsyth, east exit, then north to Yellowstone River.

Rosebud State Recreation Area (West Unit): west of Forsyth on U.S. 12, south end of Yellowstone River Bridge, milepost 270, boat ramp and access.



Forsyth's indoor swimming pool.

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1996 Events in Forsyth

May: Forsyth Rodeo Days (NRA).....	31
June: Rodeo Days Parade.....	1
Forsyth Rodeo Days (NRA).....	1-2
Mayor's Cup Run (5K, 10K).....	8
Rocky Mountain Oyster Open Golf Tournament.....	14-16
Matthew Quigley Shoot.....	16
July: BN Railroad Day	TBA
Yellowstone R. Duck Festival	TBA
August: Rosebud-Treasure County Fair	1-4
Farmers Market.....	31
Sept: Farmers Market	14
Nov: Christmas Walk.....	29

The rodeo stock is tough at Forsyth Rodeo Days. This saddle bronc rider has drawn a horse that will give him a high scoring ride... if he can stay aboard for eight seconds!

Cathy Byron Photo



WAGON WHEEL



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Images of Forsyth: Historic courthouse, pronghorn antelope, scenic Yellowstone River

Photos courtesy of Joe Wilson (Yellowstone); Fish, Wildlife & Parks (pronghorn); and Connie Wanner (courthouse)

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Ardena Whiteshield, above, shows samples of Cheyenne bead and quill work on buckskin.

St. Labre Indian School at Ashland, MT. serves the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations at three schools.

Pictured, at near right, is a Sioux Sundance medicine bag, depicting bead and quill work; ca. 1880.

Also pictured, far right, is a Cheyenne war bonnet, decorated with eagle feathers and beadwork; ca. 1890

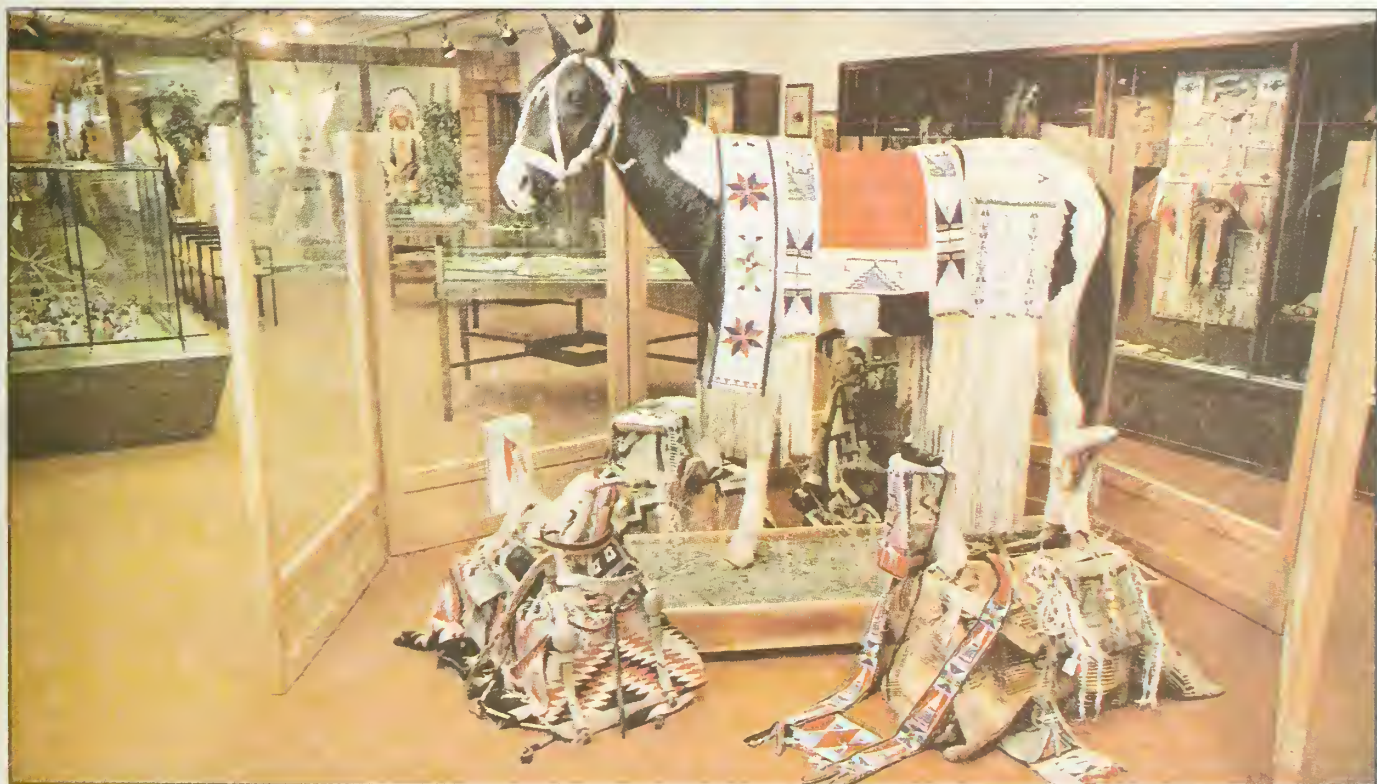
Below, a pinto horse, draped in ceremonial beaded buckskin. The display is part of the Cheyenne Indian Museum at the St. Labre Indian School, which is open to the public.

Photos courtesy of St. Labre Indian School



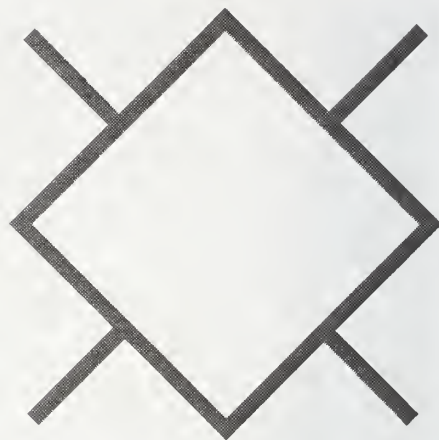
Cheyenne Traditions

The Cheyenne Indians hunted the animals of the plains, then used the original "natural fabrics" to make rawhide garments. Quills and feathers adorned the tanned hides. Beads, brought by the westward moving White Man, became an artistic medium in the creative hands of the Cheyennes. Colorful geometric patterns were created bead by bead. The garments are worn at ceremonial events. Lame Deer, MT is headquarters for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.



Wohehiv

The Morning Star Shines Brightly On The Cheyenne Reservation



The Morning Star design is the official emblem of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. The origin of this design is lost in antiquity, but it has always carried a very special meaning down through the generations. For the Cheyennes, the Morning Star "lights the morning sky and shines more brightly than the other stars." It has a different color. The Cheyennes often pray when they see this star early in the morning sky. It has its own name in the Cheyenne language: WOHEHIV.

The Morning Star design is used as the trademark on craft items as well as being the officially recorded brand of the Cheyenne cattle herd.

The 444,525 acre Northern Cheyenne Reservation is in Rosebud and Big Horn Counties, extending from the Crow Reservation eastward to the Tongue River. It is not checker-boarded with non-Indian land as are most reservations in this area. About 20 percent of the Indian families live in the rural area along the streams and rivers. The remainder are concentrated principally in four small towns in the area.

Lame Deer

Lame Deer is headquarters for the tribe and the site of the offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Northern Cheyenne annual pow wow takes place every July 4th, with competitive Indian dancing contests, parades, etc. Places are available to camp, and photography is encouraged.

The Northern Cheyenne Arts and Crafts Center features Cheyenne-made crafts, such as moccasins, belts, jewelry and other beaded gifts, souvenirs and decorator items. The Craft Center is located on the eastern edge of Lame

Deer, along Highway 212.

Cheyenne Depot Makes History

The first tribally owned convenience store in Montana opened in June 1988—the Cheyenne Depot. This thriving business provides a means of employment for tribal members.

For campers, Lame Deer has the Ha Ho Campground, located just one mile east of town on Highway 212.

Native American History

In the Lame Deer Cemetery are the graves of Chief Dull Knife (also known as "Morning Star") and Chief Little Wolf, who together historically led a small band of Northern Cheyenne Indians back to the homeland from exile in the Indian lands of Oklahoma, following the tribe's participation in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Lame Deer is also the home of Dull Knife Memorial College.

Annual Northern Cheyenne Pow Wow

Put this date on your calendar—July 4-6, 1996. You won't want to miss the traditional Pow Wow held in Lame Deer every year at this time. There will be the Princess Contest (all princesses welcome), dance contests in all categories, parades and grand entries. Gourd dancing is held daily, and rations and feasting are always part of the festivities. All drums, dancers and singers are welcome. For more information, contact the Tribal Secretary, (406) 477-6284.

Other Dates of Pow Wows:

Lame Deer Memorial Pow Wow &

Rodeo—Memorial Day Weekend

Lame Deer Pow Wow—July 4-6

Ashland Labor Day Pow Wow—Aug. 31-Sept. 2

Veteran's Day

Pow Wow, Lame Deer — Nov. 11

Busby Christmas Pow Wow—

Dec. 24-26

Lame Deer New Year's Pow Wow—

Dec. 31-Jan. 2

For additional information on Cheyenne culture, crafts and events, contact the Northern Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce at (406) 477-8844 or Box 991, Lame Deer, MT 59043. Hours are 8-5 in summer, 10-3 in winter.

Busby, Two Moon Monument

In 1993, an historic reburial was held in Busby, bringing home the remains of ten men, five women, and two children who had died about 116 years earlier during the Indian Wars. The remains had been in the possession of museums at Harvard's Peabody Museum, the National Museum of Health and Medicine and at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History.

The "museum burials" were the result of an 1880s Army directive ordering military surgeons to collect the skeletal remains of Indians killed in battle in order to gauge the ballistic effectiveness of new Army carbines and to study Indian subcultures. A federal law was passed in 1990 that allowed the return of the bones to their homelands for burial.

The remains were buried in a circle near the Two Moon Monument on Highway 212.

The Chief Two Moon Monument at Busby was built in 1936 by an Indian trader, Monicure, in memory of Chief Two Moon who participated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Ashland

At Ashland, 21 miles east of Lame Deer, are the St. Labre Mission and the Cheyenne Indian Museum. Take the time to visit these two attractions, locat-

ed side-by-side on the edge of Ashland. Free tours of the mission and museum are available.

Located on Highway 212, the shortest route between the Black Hills and Yellowstone Park, Ashland is an ideal spot to take a break. It has the Cheyenne Reservation on one side and a beautiful segment of Custer National Forest on the other. The town has traveler comforts — motel, cafe, groceries, gas station, propane fill-ups, antique shops, and a bank. Authentic beadwork is available, as well as beads and other craft materials.

Ashland can also be reached from I-90 at Exit 510. Just exit at Little Bighorn Battlefield, at the Highway 212 junction.

Rural Experiences

Exciting days and nights on a working ranch, horseback riding and cattle drives are some of the western opportunities for fun offered by farm and ranch operations in the Ashland area.

Reservation History

After the Northern Cheyennes helped defeat Custer in 1876, their pursuit eventually caused them to be detained in Oklahoma Indian Territory. Sick and hungry, determined to return to their homeland, on Sept. 7, 1878 the Cheyennes under Dull Knife (also called Morning Star) and Little Wolf escaped. Pursued in the rear, intercepted on their way, these determined people fought, froze and starved to death to reach home. An executive order on Nov. 26, 1884 finally set aside a tract of country for the Northern Cheyennes in Montana.

St. Labre Indian School

In 1883, a soldier, Private George Yoakam, stationed at Fort Keogh near Miles City, recognized the hard times experienced by the Northern Cheyennes. He contacted Bishop Brondel and told him of the Indian people who were roaming the Tongue River Valley without homes or land. Land was subsequently purchased by the bishop and, on March 29, 1884, St. Labre Indian School became a reality. Four Ursuline Sisters from Toledo, OH responded to the bishop's requests for priests and nuns.

St. Labre Indian School made a humble beginning with the construction of a log cabin school operated by the Sisters. This three-room cabin served as residence, school and dormitory, as well as the church. A replica of the cabin now stands on the site of the orig-

inal mission. Today St. Labre provides accredited K-12 education to 700 children at three locations on the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian reservations.

St. Labre depends almost entirely on private donations for its many programs. Without federal or church funds, many friends all over the United States "keep the miracle alive."

Visitors to this facility will enjoy seeing the unique teepee-style church and Cheyenne Indian Museum with its large collection of Native American artifacts and art from the Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Sioux and several other tribes.



Chief Lame Deer's tomb.

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A familiar landmark on the Highway 39-212 route to the Little Bighorn Battlefield is the Montana Power Plant complex.

E. J. McNicol Photo



Colstrip, Montana, was born in 1924 when the Northern Pacific Railroad started mining coal nearby for fuel for their steam locomotives. They had engines called Mallets that pulled freight trains over the Rockies and Cascades. These freight trains were a mile long and consumed a lot of fuel. Forty-four million tons of coal were produced before the diesel locomotives took over in 1958.

The Montana Power Company purchased the coal leases in 1959 from the Northern Pacific and with this they acquired the mining machinery and Colstrip town site.

A subsidiary of Montana Power Co., Western Energy Co., started mining the coal in 1968. At this time Colstrip had 63 houses, a school, two churches, a grain elevator, and a few buildings left from the early days.

Construction of Colstrip Power Plants 1 and 2 started in the fall of 1971, bringing work to eastern Montana and growing pains to Colstrip. Nearly \$315

million was spent on these units, not including the \$35 million for the steel tower transmission lines. Construction on Colstrip Units 3 and 4 began in 1979, at a cost of \$1.8 billion.

Now in Colstrip, you'll find lovely homes, townhouses and duplex units; playgrounds and parks are in every neighborhood. The school and recreational facilities are superb. There are baseball and ice skating complexes, a swimming pool, tennis courts, wading pools, basketball courts, bike paths, tot lots, stores, bowling lanes and a movie theater.

Free Tours

At the Colstrip Visitor Center, video tapes explain some of the history of Colstrip, the operation of a coal-fired power plant and the workings of an open-pit coal mine. Visitor Center hours are as follows: Memorial Day to Labor Day, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Labor Day to Memorial Day, Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tours are available to the Rosebud open-pit coal mine on a

daily basis, with the Colstrip Visitor Center furnishing both the guide and the transportation at no charge. Reservations are suggested during the summer. Call (406) 748-5046 during regular business hours. Tours at Big Sky Mine are available by appointment. Call (406) 748-2321.

Annual Pow Wow

Colstrip is located on the way to and from the Black Hills of South Dakota; is on the route to Yellowstone Park; is only a 1-1/2 hour drive from Pompeys Pillar (another national landmark). Two Indian reservations—the Crow and the Northern Cheyenne—are located south of Colstrip.

Don't miss the Annual Northern Cheyenne Pow Wow at Lame Deer, Montana, 25 miles south of Colstrip, the 4th of July weekend.

Lake, Camping, Airstrip

On the northwest edge of Colstrip is Castle Rock Lake, where swimming, fishing and limited boating can be enjoyed. The lake is surrounded by bike paths and picnic areas for summer fun and exercise.

Camping facilities available through Colstrip Community Services, (406) 748-2375.

The Colstrip Airstrip is located five miles west of Colstrip and is open day and night.

Colstrip Days

Colstrip Days (Parade, Carnival, Booths, Entertainment).....June 22-23

Golf Course

A challenging nine hole golf course—Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, adjacent to Hwy 39 on the north side of town (across from the high school), has the appropriate street address of 1 Long Drive. It has a club house with food and beverage services, pro shop, rentals. For tee time: (406) 748-2700.

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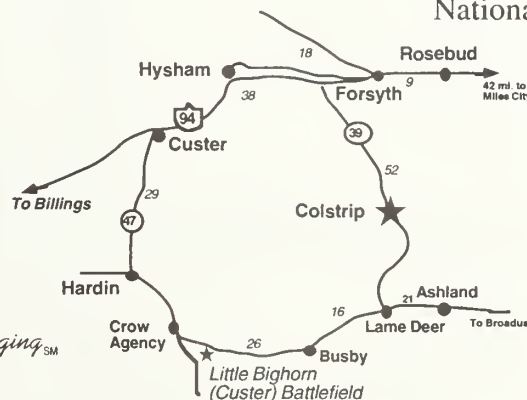
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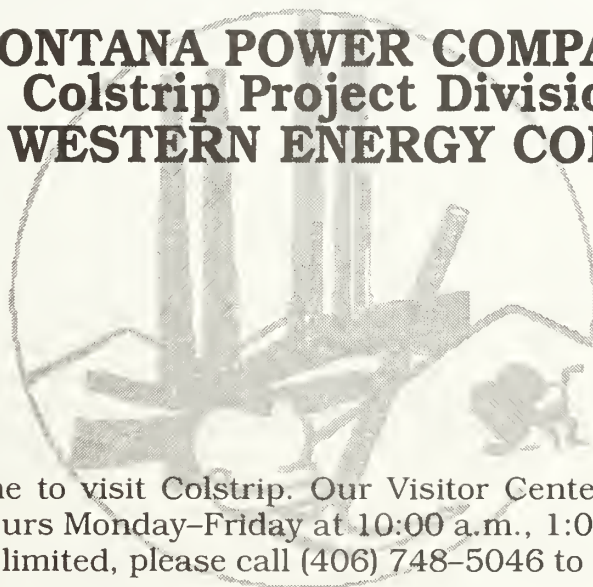
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We invite everyone to visit Colstrip. Our Visitor Center located at 6200 Main Street offers free tours Monday-Friday at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. As seating on tours is limited, please call (406) 748-5046 to make your reservations.

Real West Rodeo Action



Breakaway roping kicks up the dust and gets the adrenaline pumping.
Donna Delp Photo

Rodeo, a truly western sport, began as a result of activities performed by the working cowboy on his day-to-day job. It wasn't long before cowboys began gathering regularly to test their skills and to prove who was the toughest and best rider. Early contests usually took place after the annual roundup.

Today, action-packed rodeos still put cowboy skills to the test. There are ranch rodeos, old timer rodeos, team roping events and youth rodeos.

Experience the western way of life as we live it in Big Sky Country!

To find out about other Northern Rodeo Association rodeos in and around Montana, contact the NRA office in Billings: Northern Rodeo Association, P.O. Box 1122, Billings, MT 59103, phone (406) 252-1122.

Rodeos and roping events are held at the Horse Palace Equestrian Center at East Laurel Exit 437. Admission prices fit the family budget. Events are scheduled nearly every day from November through April. For a complete schedule, write to Horse Palace, 7215 Mossmain Drive, Billings, MT 59106, phone (406) 628-2049.

1996 Custer Country Region Rodeo Schedule

April

NILE Bull Riders Invitational
Billings 6

May

High School Rodeo
Hardin.....11-12

High School Rodeo, Richey.....12
Bucking Horse Sale Rodeo

Miles City 17-19
Powwow and Rodeo

Lame Deer 26-27
NRA Rodeo & Bullmania

Forsyth 31 - June 1-2
June

District High School Rodeo
Roundup.....7-9

Little Big Horn Days Rodeo
Hardin.....21-22

Little Levi Rodeo (12 & under)
Broadus.....29

July

NRA July 4th Rodeo, Roundup 4
Amateur Rodeo, Terry 4

Amateur Rodeo, Hardin.....4
Ranch Rodeo, Broadus.....4

Ranch Rodeo, Wibaux.....4
Richey Rodeo, Richey 21

Rodeo, Ingomar 28
August

NRA Rosebud/Treasure County
Fair Rodeo, Forsyth 1-3

PRCA Rodeo and Fair, Glendive 8-9
Days of '85 Rodeo, Ekalaka 9-11

Crow Fair Rodeo, Crow Agency..15-18
NRA Montana Fair Rodeo

Billings 15-17
NRA Fallon County Fair, Baker...15-18

PRCA Rodeo & Fair, Miles City...22-25
Rodeo, Wibaux.....24

September

Team Roping, Custer 1-2
October

PRCA NILE Rodeo, Billings 12-19
Jan. Feb. 1997

NRA Rodeo Finals, Billings...1/31-2/2

Rodeo Talk

When you attend a rodeo, you'll hear the announcer use terms that are part of the arena lingo. Here's a little help with brushing up on "rodeo talk."

Average: Contestants in rodeos with more than one go-round, average all the go-rounds. The winner of the average is the winner of that event.

Breaking the Barrier: If the contestant rides through or breaks out of his starting post before it is released, he is assessed a penalty of more seconds added to his time. This helps give a calf, steer, or goat an equal start with the rodeoer.

Choking the Apple: If a rider grasps the saddle horn while contest bronc riding, he is disqualified.

Dallying: A rider takes a wrap or several wraps around the horn with a rope, making it temporarily secure.

End Swapper: A bronc that reverses its position in the middle of a high buck is an end swapper.

Flank Strap: A sheepskin lined strap with a self-holding buckle is passed around the flank of the bronc or bull and is pulled tight as the animal leaves the chute. In an effort to get rid of the flank strap, the stock bucks higher and harder.

Go-Round: This is a session of rodeo that allows each contestant to compete on one head of stock.

Hazer: A cowboy who rides along beside a steer on the opposite side from the steer wrestler to keep the steer from running away from the steer wrestler's horse is a hazer.

No Time: When a flag fieldman waves "no time" it means that the contestant has not caught or thrown his animal properly and does not qualify on that animal in that go-round.

Pick-up Man: A mounted cowboy in the arena who assists riders in dismounting after they have completed their rides.

Pulling Leather: When a bronc rider holds onto the horn or any part of the saddle, he is said to be pulling leather. Pulling leather disqualifies a saddle bronc rider if it is done before the ride is completed.

Re-ride: When a ride does not qualify a rider in a go-round, and the fault is other than the rider's, he is given another chance in that go-round.

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Donna Delp photo



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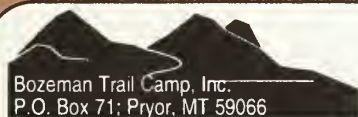
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Vacation Planner



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Jim Duncan Photo

March, 1996

Gun Show & Sale, Billings 29-31

April, 1996

NILE Bull Riders Contest, MetraPark, Billings 5-6

Walleye Seminar, Roundup 11

Lost in Yonkers, BST, Billings 19-28

Springfest, Miles City 19-20

Billings Symphony Pops Concert, ABT, Billings 20

Gem and Mineral Show, MetraPark, Billings 20-21

Antique & Collectible Extravaganza, Shrine Auditorium, Billings.....20-21

Wildlife/Earth Fair for Kids, ZooMontana, Billings 20-21

The School for Wives, ABT, Billings 25

Mac Frampton, ABT, Billings 26

Sesame Street's Bob McGrath, ABT, Billings.....27

40th Anniversary Show of Barbershop Harmony Society, Lincoln Center, Billings 27

Peaks to Prairie Race, Run, Bike, Boat,

Red Lodge to Billings 28

May, 1996

Western Art Roundup, Miles City 5/2 to 7/7

Buzzard Day, Makoshika State Park, Glendive.....4

Moss Mansion Country Fair, Billings.....4

Bump & Run Motocross Rally, Roundup 5

3D Shoot, Archery Club, Broadus.....5

Aaron Tippin Concert, MetraPark, Billings.....10

Wine Festival, MSU-B, Billings 10-11

Montana Women's Run, Downtown Billings 11

High School Rodeo, Hardin.....11-12

High School Rodeo, Richey.....12

Paddlefish Season, Glendive/Intake.....5/15 to 6/30

Royal Lipizzan Stallions, MetraPark, Billings 16-17

Bucking Horse Sale, Miles City.....17-19

Heart and Soul Run, Downtown Billings 18

Quick Draw Art Auction, Miles City 18

NILE Spring Horse Show & Sale, Billings.....18-19

Ranch Vacations, Broadus 18-22

Memorial Pow-wow and Rodeo, Lame Deer 26-27

Pompeys Pillar Opens for Season 27

Ringling 5, Broadus.....31

Forsyth Rodeo Days (NRA), Forsyth.....31

June, 1996

Micro-Brew Fest, Shrine Auditorium, Billings.....1

Vintage Car Run, Richey 1

Children's Fishing Tank & Fly Casting Contest,

Roundup 1

Forsyth Rodeo Days (NRA), Forsyth 1-2

Muzzle Loaders Rendezvous, Broadus 1-2

Funny Girl, BST, Billings.....1-15

Bump & Run Motocross Rally, Roundup 2

District High School Rodeo, Roundup 7-9

Tractor Power Pull, Hardin.....8

Mayor's Cup Run, Forsyth.....8

Strawberry Festival, Downtown Billings.....8

Walleye Tournament, Fort Smith 8-9



"Custer" brings history to life!

John Brewer Photo

1996 Custer Country Calendar

Ranch Vacations, Broadus	8-12
Festival of Cultures, RMC Campus, Billings.....	9
Western Days Parade, BBQ, Street Dance, Downtown Billings.....	14-15
Quilters in the Library, Hardin.....	6/15 to 7/15
Matthew Quigley Shoot, Forsyth.....	16
Great Am. Car Race Parade, Downtown Billings.....	19



Get ready to rodeo!

John Brewer Photo

Seafood Fest & Shine Time Car Show, Downtown Billings.....	19
Little Big Horn Days Parades, Events, Hardin.....	19-23
Military Ball, Museum, Hardin	20
Great Am. Car Race, Hardin.....	20
Little Big Horn Days Rodeo, Hardin.....	21-22
Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment, Hardin.....	21-23
Balloon Rally, Miles City.....	21-23
Colstrip Days Parade & Carnival, Colstrip	22-23
ZooGrass Festival Concert, MetraPark, Billings	23
3D Shoot, Archery Club, Broadus.....	23
Gun Show, MetraPark, Billings.....	27-30
Badlands Drifters Car Show, Glendive.....	28-29
Little Levi Rodeo (12 and under), Broadus	29
5th Infantry Days Encampment, Miles City	29-30
Symphony Concert in Pioneer Park, Billings	30
Wagon Train, Ingomar to Roundup	6/30 to 7/4

July, 1996

International Baseball Tournament, Laurel	2-4
Street Dance, Laurel	3
Parade, Rodeo and Fireworks, Roundup	3-4
Fallon County Days Celebration, Baker.....	4
1 Mile, 5 Mile Fun Run, Broadus	4
Ice Cream Social, Museum, Wibaux.....	4
Ranch Rodeo and Parade, Broadus	4
Parades, Largest Fireworks in State, Laurel.....	4
Amateur Rodeo, Talent Show, Fireworks, Hardin.....	4
Amateur Rodeo, Terry	4
Parade and Celebration, Hysham.....	4
Fireworks & Celebration, Miles City.....	4
Fireworks at Belltower, near Ekalaka.....	4
Independence Day Celebration, Glendive.....	4
Ranch Rodeo, Wibaux.....	4
Northern Cheyenne Pow-wow, Lame Deer.....	4-6
Pow-wow, Lodge Grass	4-6

Yellowstone River Boat Float, Laurel.....	5-7
Eastern Montana "-ski" Festival, Wibaux.....	6
Picnic and Games, Ismay (Joe)	6-7
Food Fair, Downtown Billings	10
Big Sky State Games, Billings.....	12-14
Classic Car Club Show, Miles City	13
Tri-County Horse Show, Roundup	13-14
Ranch Vacations, Broadus	13-17
Bump and Run Motocross, Roundup.....	14
Tri-County & 4-H Fair, Roundup	18-20
World Champions on Ice, Billings	19
Summer Festival, Glendive.....	19-20
Hot Rod Poker Run, Laurel	20
Highland Festival, Miles City	20
Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, Roundup	20
Summerfair, RMC, Billings.....	20-21
Homesteader Days, Huntley	20-21



Crow and Northern Cheyenne Pow-wows!

John Brewer Photo



Western events for all ages.

Donna Delp photo

Annual Rodeo, Richey	21
Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, Laurel.....	21
Bluegrass Festival, Glendive.....	27
Yippee Days, Terry.....	27
Great American Championship Motorcycle Hill Climb, ...	
Billings.....	27-28
Rodeo, Ingomar	28
Clark Day at Pompeys Pillar.....	28
Youth & Open Fair, Hardin.....	7/29 to 8/4
August, 1996	
NRA Rodeo, Forsyth.....	1-3
Rosebud/Treasure County Fair, Forsyth	1-4
Big Skyfest, Hot Air Balloons, Billings.....	1-4
Hispanic Fiesta, Billings.....	3-4
Bump & Run Motocross, Roundup	4
Premiere Cattle Drive, Broadus	4-9
Food Fair, Downtown Billings	7
Mountain Man Rendezvous and	
Cowboy Encampment, Roundup	8-11
Dawson County Fair and Rodeo, Glendive	8-11
Parade and Rodeo, Broadus.....	9
Days of '85 Fair, Rodeo, Parade, Ekalaka	9-11
MontanaFair, Carnival, Horse Races, Stars, Rodeos,	
Exhibits, Cattle Shows, MetraPark, Billings	10-17
Business Expo, MetraPark, Billings.....	11-12
Ranch Vacation, Broadus	12-16
Powder River County Fair, Broadus	15-17
NRA Rodeo, MetraPark, Billings.....	15-17
County Fair, Parade & Rodeo, Baker	15-18
Crow Fair, Rodeos & Parades, Crow Agency.....	15-19
Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, MetraPark,	
Billings.....	16-18, 23-25, 30-31
Melodrama, Makoshika, Glendive	16-18
Prairie County Fair, Terry	16-18
Threshing Bee, Huntley Project Museum.....	17-18
3D Archery Shoot, Broadus	18

Roundup Cattle Drive, Roundup	18-23
Taste of Billings, Downtown Billings	21
Eastern Montana Fair, Miles City	22-25
County Fair, Wibaux.....	23-25
Antique Show, MetraPark, Billings	23-25
Rodeo, Wibaux.....	24
Country Fun Day, Museum, Hardin.....	25
Art Auction Exhibit, Miles City	8/29 to 9/28
Labor Day Pow-wow, Ashland	8/31 to 9/2
September, 1996	

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, MetraPark,	
Billings	1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22
Quarter Horse Futurity & Horse Sale, Broadus.....	1
Team Roping & Dance, Custer.....	1-2
Undercover Gals Quilt Show, Hardin	3-14
Home Improvement Show, Billings	6-8
Ranch Vacations, Broadus	7-11
Business Expo '96, MetraPark, Billings.....	11-12
Ram Sale, Miles City	12
Bump and Run Motocross Rally, Roundup	15
Riverfest, Riverfront Park, Billings	15
Quilt Show, Broadus	21
Draft Horse Show, Hardin.....	21-22
Bell Street Bridge Day, Glendive.....	22
Woodcarvers Show, Elks Lodge, Billings.....	27-29
Herbstfest Celebration, Parades,	
Food Booths, Entertainment, Laurel.....	27-29
Art Auction, Miles City	28
Antique/Collectible Extravaganza, Shrine Auditorium,	
Billings.....	28-29
October, 1996	

Air Gun Competition, Roundup	5
J.K. Ralston Show and Auction, Billings.....	11
Big Sky Polka Fest, Elks Club, Billings	12-13
NILE Exhibits, MetraPark Arena, Billings	12-19
NILE PRCA Rodeo, MetraPark, Billings	15-19
November, 1996	
Market Place Magic, MetraPark, Billings	1-3
Antique Show and Sale, MetraPark, Billings	8-10
Country Store, Broadus	16
Christmas Market, Miles City	22-23
Holiday Food Show, Holiday Tr. Ctr., Billings	23-24
Parade of Lights and Christmas Walk, Forsyth.....	29
Holiday Parade, Downtown Billings.....	29
Turkey Tourney & Craft Show, Wibaux.....	29-30
Holiday Light Parade, Glendive	30
December, 1996	

Christmas Lighting Festival, Laurel	1
Christmas Stroll, Broadus.....	2
Christmas Stroll, Downtown Billings	6
Christmas Stroll, Miles City	6
Christmas Stroll, Roundup.....	7
Christmas Auction, Miles City.....	12-20
Christmas Pow-wow, Busby	24-26
New Year's Pow-wow, Lame Deer	12/31 to 1/2
January, 1997	

National Rodeo Association Finals, Billings	1/31 to 2-2
February, 1997	

Cowtown Beef Breeders Show, Miles City.....	7
State All-Class State Wrestling Tourney, Billings	7-8
Montana Agri-Trade Exposition,	

MetraPark, Billings	Third Weekend
March, 1997	

Yellowstone Art Center Art Auction, Billings	1
Home Improvement Show, Billings	First Weekend
Bronco Days, Baker.....	Second Weekend
Go Show Auto Display, Billings	Second Weekend
St. Patrick's Day Parade, Billings	17
Montana Outdoor Recreation Exposition,	
MetraPark, Billings	Fourth Weekend

Stewardship

For the Custer Country Board of Directors, our greatest pleasure is to welcome visitors to our region. The area we promote is known for its natural treasures. They are fragile.

Keeping part of "The Last Best Place" intact for you, your children, and your future generations, causes us to enlist you in our commitment to stewardship.

Visitors and residents have a responsibility for the stew-

ardship of treasures found throughout Montana, whether the treasure is a scenic vista, an archaeological site, or the fossil remains of ancient plants and animals.

In a large, sparsely populated state such as Montana, many areas are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction.

The varied resources found on public land belong to the people of Montana and the American public.

When individuals deface sites or remove resources, those treasures are lost forever.

To save and protect these resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations, we urge everyone to visit Custer Country with the National Park Service's motto in mind:

"Take only pictures and leave only footprints."

Montana Tourism Regions

Custer Country is one of Montana's six tourism regions. Montana is a big state—fourth largest of the fifty. The State Travel Promotion Division has divided the state into regions that surround major attractions.

We hope you have enjoyed and found useful the information in this Custer Country Vacation Guide. The other five regions have similar publications that spotlight their sites and attractions. Listed here are the addresses to contact to receive the other tour guides.

To contact the Custer Country offices, write: Custer Country, Rte. 1, Box 1206A, Hardin, MT 59034 or phone (406) 665-1671 (FAX number same as phone) or 1-800-346-1876.

For a free statewide vacation planning packet, write to: Travel Montana, P.O. Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620-0533. In state, phone (406) 444-2654. Non-residents call toll free: 1-800-Visit MT (1-800-847-4868). You will receive a Vacation Guide which includes a highway map, a Travel Planner with a comprehensive listing of all types of accommodations, and a Calendar of Events.

For information on other regions, write or call the following:

- **Glacier Country**, 1507 1st Ave. West, Kalispell, MT 59901 (406) 756-7128 or 1-800-338-5072
- **Gold West Country**, 1155 Main, Deer Lodge, MT 59722 (406) 846-1943
- **Missouri River Country**, Box 387, Wolf Point, MT 59201 1-800-653-1319
- **Russell Country**, P.O. Box 3166, Great Falls, MT 59403-3166 (406) 761-5036 or 1-800-527-5348
- **Yellowstone Country**, P.O. Box 1107,

Red Lodge, MT 59068 (406) 446-1005 or 1-800-736-5276

Agency Addresses & Phone Numbers *Bureau of Land Management*

BLM - Tourism

Box 36800

Billings, MT 59107(406) 255-2885

BLM - Tourism

111 Garryowen Road

Miles City, MT 59301(406) 232-4331

Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Regional Information Officer

Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Box 2004

Miles City, MT 59301(406) 232-4365

Regional Information Officer

Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks

2300 Lake Elmo Drive

24 Hour Information(406) 247-2970

Billings, MT 59105(406) 247-2940

Charles M. Russell National

Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1110

Airport Road

Lewistown, MT 59457(406) 538-8706

National Forest

Custer National Forest

Supervisor's Office

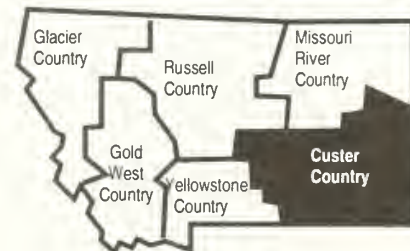
Box 2556

Billings, MT 59103(406) 657-6361

U. S. Forest Service, Northern Region,

Federal Building, P.O. Box 7669

Missoula, MT 59807.....(406) 329-3814



Please contact these Custer Country Visitor Service Offices with your questions or for further information...

Baker P.O. Box 849, Zip 59313

Phone (406) 778-2266

Billings P.O. Box 31177, Zip 59107

Phone (406) 245-4111 or 800-735-2635

Broadus P.O. Box 47, Zip 59317

Phone (406) 436-2818 or 436-9976

Colstrip P.O. Box 1100, Zip 59323

Phone (406) 748-5046

Ekalaka P.O. Box 297, Zip 59324

Phone (406) 775-6658

Forsyth P.O. Box 448, Zip 59327

Phone (406) 356-2123

Glendive P.O. Box 930, Zip 59330

Phone (406) 365-5601

Hardin 21 East 4th, Zip 59034

Phone (406) 665-1672

Hysham P.O. Box 63, Zip 59038

Phone (406) 342-5457

Laurel P.O. Box 395, Zip 59044

Phone (406) 628-8105

Lavina, Montana 59046

Phone (406) 636-2722

Miles City 901 Main St., Zip 59301

Phone (406) 232-2890

Northern Cheyenne Chamber

P.O. Box 991,

Lame Deer, Zip 59043

Phone (406) 477-8844

Richey P.O. Box 279, Zip 59259

Phone (406) 773-5580

Roundup P.O. Box 751, Zip 59072

Phone (406) 323-1966

Terry P.O. Box 6, Zip 59349

Phone (406) 637-2126

Wibaux P.O. Box 159, Zip 59353

Phone (406) 795-2412

Mont. Chamber of Commerce Box 1730,

Helena, MT, Zip 59624

Phone (406) 442-2405



The Crow Fair and Rodeo Celebration is headquartered annually at the tribal campgrounds along the Little Bighorn River near Crow Agency.

Dennis Sanders, Hardin Photo Service Photo



LITTLE BIGHORN CASINO

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Crow Nation

The Crow Reservation is where culture and tradition are a way of life, perpetuated from generation to generation. Experience the culture of the *Apsaalooke*, "Children of the Large-Beaked Bird," the *Crow People*.

Come and share with us our way of life, the history and nature's beauty, the mountains, canyons, rivers, plains, animals and the people, protectors of sacred grounds.

Experience what it is we must keep. A large area of land was designated to the *Apsaalooke* in the treaty of 1851; in 1868 precious portions were taken away.

Now on an area of 3,565 square miles the Crow Nation consists of five main communities: *Wyola*, very southeast, the gateway to the sacred Bighorn Mountains and the Medicine Wheel, where "The Mighty Few" are known for "hand games."

North of *Wyola* is *Lodge Grass* (the Greasy Grass area and early day summer hunting grounds), the first full service town from the south on I-90, where the cool, shady White Arm Park is. A four-day Valley of the Chiefs Celebration is held each 4th of July here. It is the route through "No water" and "Rotten Grass" to the "Valley of the Chiefs." Southwest is *Willow Creek Reservoir* for fishing, boating, sunbathing and picnics.

Further north is *Garryowen*. A region steeped in rich history that includes Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, borders *Crow Agency*, hub of tribal management and government. Southwest are *St. Xavier* and *Fort Smith* near Bighorn Canyon and Yellowtail Dam, the source of the Bighorn River. Northwest on the reservation is *Pryor* home of Chief Plenty Coups State Park. The *Bighorn*, *Pryor* and *Wolf* Mountains are our backdrop.

In *Crow Agency* a brand new *Crow/Northern Cheyenne Indian Hospital* includes a very fine collection of Crow and Northern Cheyenne artwork and crafts for the enjoyment of visitors.



*Feel the land that lives
and the wind will tell you...*

The Crow Fair and Rodeo celebration is headquartered annually at the tribal campgrounds along the Little Bighorn River near *Crow Agency*. It will be held August 15-19 in 1996.

Dennis Sanders, Hardin Photo Service Photo

Little Big Horn College, a Tribal community college is also a nucleus of *Crow Agency*. Among the college's attributes, are its extensive library and *Crow Archives*, and a tourism program. *Micro Tourism* is a department of the college which offers visitors and tourists catered local and cultural activities and tour packages. Call (406) 638-7223 or write: Little Big Horn College Micro-Tourism, P.O. Box 370, *Crow Agency*, MT 59022.

Crow Fair, Teepee Capitol of the World—Each year on the third weekend of August (Moon of heat waves on the grass), the season finale is the premier Pow wow of the Plains Indians.

From every western state and Canada, Indians come to camp along the Little Bighorn River. Spectacular parades each morning; an all-Indian rodeo, with cowboys from all over the nation; pari-mutuel racing and betting, wild horse races and dances. In *Crow Agency*, the 78th annual Crow Fair will

be held August 15-19, 1996.

Annually the communities of *Crow People* live their tradition and hold a variety of cultural events such as hand games, arrow throwing, Indian dances and seasonal ceremonies.

Sought after are beaded finery of the *Crow People*. Old *Crow Indian* style designs and contemporary beaded creations on traditional regalia are of collector caliber. Visitors will find many artisans and art pieces.

Cattle drives, trail rides, camp-outs, hiking, guided tours, jackpot rodeos and other recreation are also available through private Native American establishments on the *Crow Indian Reservation*.

For help with interpretation of cultural activities, contact *Burton Pretty On Top*, *Crow Tribal Office*, P.O. Box 159, *Crow Agency*, MT 59022, (406) 638-2601 (public relations office, ext. 104 or 222).



Cottage Inn

22 Hester Avenue
Lodge Grass, Montana 59050

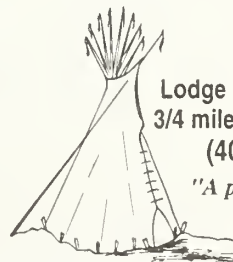
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Stay all night (406) 639-2453



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"A private enterprise
business"





Helpful personnel greeted over 400,000 visitors to Little Bighorn Battlefield in 1995.
Gloria Wester Photo

Battlefield

Little Bighorn Battle History, Talks, Tours

ued encroachment by European cultures.

To understand the circumstances responsible for this clash requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. The Historic Trails Map on page 76 follows the movements of the cavalry and the Indian nations prior to the battle.

Battlefield Tours, Visitor Center

The Battlefield and Visitor Center, which has an interpretive museum, are open until 8:00 p.m. every day in the summer. There is a gate fee of \$4.00 per vehicle to visit the Battlefield and National Monument Museum, \$2.00 per pedestrian. However, those wishing only to visit the Custer National Cemetery are given a free pass.

Admission to Little Bighorn Battlefield is free on Memorial Day, June 25 (the anniversary of the battle), and August 25 (National Parks Day).

The Visitor Center interprets the battle, Indian culture, and frontier soldiers in a variety of exhibits.

Living history contact stations are set up daily in the amphitheater area of the Visitor Center to interpret the life of the Plains Indians, and the U.S. Cavalry and Indian Scouts in 1876. Guest lecturers also present special programs during the summer. An "Art in the Park"

program featuring local artistic talent is offered on weekends.

Visitor Center Schedule

Spring	8 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day)	8 A.M. to 8 P.M.
Fall.....	8 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Winter.....	8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Memorial Day to Labor Day

Repeated at varying times daily are these live programs and talks:

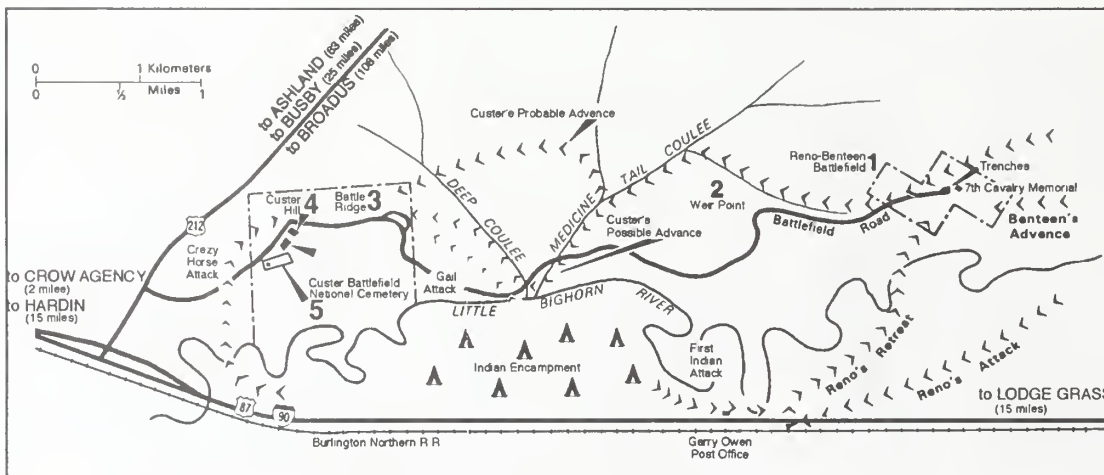
- Battle of Little Bighorn Talk
- Weapons and Tactics Talk
- Road to the Little Bighorn Talk
- Plains Indian Talk
- U.S. Cavalry/Indian Scout Talk
- Brushing Away Time, Archaeology at Little Bighorn Battlefield Film
- Last Stand at Little Bighorn Film

A complete time schedule of interpretive activities is available from the park headquarters at the battlefield or from information centers throughout Custer Country.

Since inclement weather and other factors may alter scheduling, no times are listed here. Visitors may check at the Visitor Center for times and places or call (406) 638-2621.

Located near Crow Agency, on Highway 212 (I-90 Exit 510), the Battlefield is just 15 miles east of Hardin.

NOTE: (Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment is held at a location six miles west of Hardin, not at the battlefield.)



The Cowboy Shop

in the Custer Battlefield
Convenience Center



- ★ Souvenirs
- ★ Jewelry
- ★ Gifts ★ Tack
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soil that still holds secrets known to
only a rare few. From Red Cloud's
War to the defeat of the Seventh
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6) Rosebud Battlefield; 7) Deer Medicine Rocks;
8) Crow's Nest; 9) The Infamous Battle of the Little
Bighorn

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Ends with Riding in Custer's
Last Stand Re-enactment.

July – Follow Custer's
Trail Down Reno Creek or
follow the 7th Cavalry from
the Powder River to the
Little Bighorn River.

August: Mix Custer with
one of the Nation's Largest
Indian PowWows!

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A Montana Adventure: Ride the actual trails of Custer and
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Contact: John-(406) 342-5423 or

Greg-(406) 665-3538

Davis Creek Camp, Sarpy Route Box 940, Hysham, MT 59038



Little Bighorn (formerly Custer) Battlefield National Monument memorializes one of the last armed efforts of the Northern Plains Indians to preserve their ancestral way of life. Here in the valley of the Little Bighorn River on June 25 and 26, 1876, more than 260 soldiers and attached personnel of the U.S. Army met defeat and death at the hands of several thousand Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. See page 70 for information concerning Battlefield hours and tours.

Dan Martinez Photo

Land of Legends & Beauty

Custer Country! It's a land that tells the story of one of the most famous battles between the Indian and the white man.

But more than that, around its historic center Custer Country is the traveler's and recreationist's discovery land.

For fishermen it's a paradise of variety. The famous Yellowstone River offers rainbow and brown trout, sauger, catfish, ling and even the live and fighting prehistoric paddlefish. Spectacular Bighorn Canyon Lake provides boating and waterskiing, then spills over the Yellowtail Dam to nurture the spawns of the Bighorn River, rated by many as the finest trout stream in the country. Fishing sites offer easy access to fishing on all rivers.

Pronghorn antelope, golden brown as the grasses they graze, are abundant in Custer Country. And from dusk to dawn the nocturnal whitetail and mule deer move from the river brushlands, from the draws and coulees to the grassy meadows.

Geology is both productive and aesthetic in Custer Country. One of the world's largest coal supplies lies just under the surface cover and offers the

fruit of its industry. Lewis and Clark's Expedition of 1804-1806 first recorded the unusual rock formations of the southeastern Montana region. From the rimrocks that frame the Billings valley, to Pompeys Pillar (a sandstone formation rising from "nowhere," named by and inscribed by Captain William Clark), to the beauty of the badlands of Glendive's Makoshika State Park, the geology offers a rewarding excursion through Custer Country.

Montana was full of dinosaurs. Many skeletons have been found in Custer Country. They pose for study at museums in Ekalaka, Glendive, and Miles City.

And where you see herds of cattle and sheep grazing and see horses running in the wind, you find cowboys and cowgirls holding rodeos and horse shows. Custer Country's calendar offers a full scale of events. Add to these the tradition and spectacle of the Crow and Cheyenne Indian events, and you have a true western vacation.

Custer Country is not lacking in comfort. In Billings the region is serviced by Logan International Airport with daily flights into and out of all major cities. Cultural events, art museums, enter-

tainment and nightlife make Custer Country a complete package holiday for the entire family.

—Gloria Wester



Montana Travel Photo by D. O'Looney



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- Relics and Collectibles •

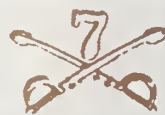
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Custer Battlefield Museum



I-90 Exit 514

SITTING BULL'S CAMPSITE

WHERE THE BATTLE BEGAN

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN
SOLDIER

FAMED DAVID F. BARRY
PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION



Sitting Bull
Leader of the Sioux



Lt. Col. George
Armstrong Custer

The collection includes more than 100 photographs culled from negatives made by D.F. Barry in the 1870's and 1880's. The original glass negatives of Barry's photographs had been stored at the Denver Public Library's Western History Department for almost half a century.

Garryowen, MT 59031

I-90 Exit 514

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Open Daily – Summer 8–9

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Garryowen

"Burying the Hatchet"—White Bull, a Sioux Indian and General Godfrey bury the hatchet in the grave of the unknown soldier at Garryowen on June 25, 1926, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Elsa Spear
Byron Photo

In 1895 the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad established a tiny station on the Little Bighorn River, where water was taken on, and U.S. Army troops, supplies and mail were off-loaded for delivery to nearby forts.

The site was originally named for the marching song of the 7th Cavalry,

which was under Gen. George Custer's command at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Myles Keogh, one of Custer's officers, carried the tune and words from Ireland. It had been the marching song for the Royal Lancers, a famous British unit, of which Keogh's father was an officer, at Garryowen, Ireland.

Garryowen has had a rebirth and is now the site of a new post office, the Custer Battlefield Museum, trading

post, coffee shop, and rest stop. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier located there has been restored. The skeleton of a man presumed to have been one of Major Reno's troopers was found near Garryowen by a road construction crew in 1926. On the anniversary of the battle that year, white and native Americans held a symbolic burying of the hatchet ceremony and burial service for the soldier.

Trails to Destiny

Custer's Last March

The most renowned historic site in all of Montana's Custer Country is the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument (formerly Custer Battlefield). The preserved battlefield, monument and cemetery are a lasting symbol of one of the most significant battles fought in the West. (A project is currently underway to add a monument to the Indians who fought.)

The battle has been referred to as "Custer's Last Stand," "Sitting Bull's War," and the "Sioux War of 1876."

To understand the circumstances responsible for this bloody clash of June 25, 1876, requires a detailed explanation of events. Many books have been written on the battle history. Others deal with the conjectures and philosophies that attempt to sort out the facts of the battle where all 210 cavalrymen died. Not one lived to tell the tale. In fact, only one of their horses, Comanche, survived. Because of the pressure of the government on their lifestyles, Indians involved in the battle refused to tell the details. For books or information, contact Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Visitor Center, Crow Agency, MT 59022, phone (406) 638-2621.

The Indian Trail

An event on March 17, 1876, gave unmistakable notice to the Indians that the soldiers meant war if the Indians did not move onto the reservations. Under the com-

mand of Gen. George Crook, Col. Joseph J. Reynolds and six companies of cavalry attacked an Indian camp on the Powder River on that cold morning. The surprised Indians rallied and counterattacked. Reynolds fell back to the main column. Crook and his command returned to Fort Fetterman for two months.

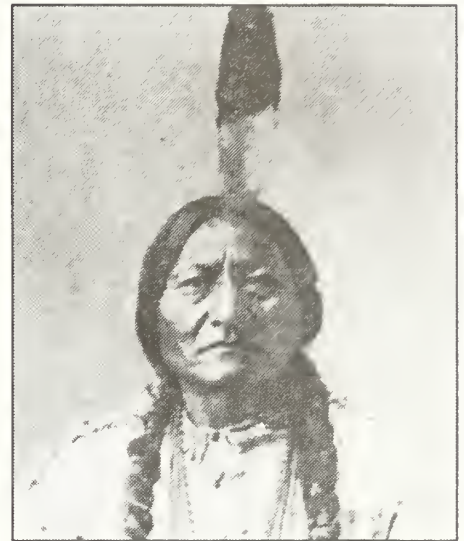
The victorious Indian village consisted of about a hundred lodges of Oglalas, Miniconjous, and Cheyennes. After the soldiers withdrew, the warriors reclaimed their village and moved downstream, then over to the East Fork of the Little Powder River to unite with Crazy Horse.

The combined bands then set forth to find Sitting Bull, who was camped about 60 miles farther north on another branch of the Powder River. Little by little, as word of the war spread from one camp to another, the Indians came together for self-defense. In the spring, their kinsmen from the agencies joined them.

By early June they had reached a strength of about 400 lodges—about 3,000 people, including about 800 warriors.

On June 18 the Indians struck camp, journeyed down Reno Creek to the Little Bighorn, then turned south up the valley and pitched their teepees. Here, a short distance above the mouth of Reno Creek, they stayed six days. Other Indians joined them here, increasing their numbers to 1,000 lodges, 7,000 people, and 2,000 warriors.

Their need for food would foil battle tactics, for on June 24, though the tribal leaders had planned a movement farther up the Little Bighorn, when antelope were spotted, the Indian people moved the village northward, back down the Little Bighorn in the direction from which they had come. When the sun rose June 25, 1876, the Indians were closer than Custer expected to find them.



Sitting Bull, Leader of the Sioux
*Little Bighorn Battlefield National
Monument Archives Photo*

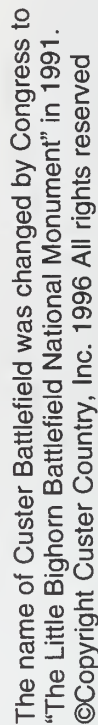
The Custer Trail

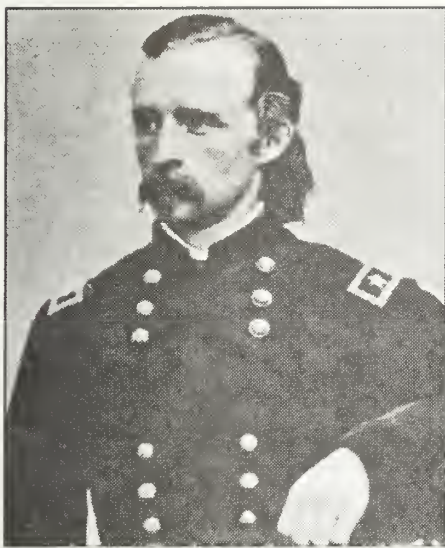
On May 17, 1876, about 956 officers and men of the U.S. army marched westward out of Fort Abraham Lincoln, south of what is now Mandan, North Dakota. They were under orders to subjugate Sioux and Cheyenne Indians who refused to stay within their reservations. The commander of the expedition was Gen. Alfred H. Terry. One of his staff officers was Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, a Civil War hero.

The troops entered present day Montana just south of where Wibaux is now located, and moved along the Yellowstone River to the mouth of the Tongue River, then progressed up the Yellowstone River to camp a few miles east of Rosebud Creek.

One column, led by Gen. George Crook, was attacked and forced to turn back at the six-hour Battle of the Rosebud on June 17. Maj. Marcus Reno

- Custer's Last March
- Lewis & Clark Expedition
(Clark's Return Route)
- Nez Perce Indian Flight





Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument Archives Photo

had been only 40 miles from the incident when it occurred. He carried the news back to Gen. Terry.

The other two columns, under Col. John Gibbon and Terry, joined on the Yellowstone River at the mouth of the Rosebud River. From here, Terry laid plans to locate the Indians, then believed to be in the Little Bighorn Valley. Bent over a map in the cabin of the Far West steamer, orders were formulated. Taking Gibbon's column up on the Yellowstone to approach the valley from the north, Terry sent Custer and the 7th Cavalry on a wide sweep to the south to approach it from the opposite direction. The strategy was to catch the Indians between the two forces.

Before setting out, the 7th Cavalry passed in review before their leaders: 31 officers, 566 enlisted men, 35 Indian scouts, a dozen packers, guides and other employees. Custer's mission was to march up the Rosebud following the Indian trail. If it turned to the Little Bighorn, he was still to continue up the Rosebud before swinging west to the upper reaches of the Little Bighorn.

His troops covered 12 miles the afternoon of the first day, 30 miles each of the next two days. A marker between Colstrip and Lane Deer points out one of the encampments. On June 23 they struck an Indian trail that Major Reno had already examined. On the morning of the 24th, they paused at the site where the Sioux had staged a sun dance earlier in the month. Suddenly the trail turned fresh. The scouts said the Indians were as near as 20 miles.

At the noon stop, scouting reports said that the Indians were on the lower

Little Bighorn. Custer decided to cut across there to get the Sioux before they scattered and got away. His troops marched out at midnight. Early the next morning, two parties of Sioux were spotted. Fearing that they would warn and disperse the Indians, Custer decided to strike as soon as possible. Five troops went with him, three each with Reno and Capt. Frederick Benteen.

The movements of the Custer, Reno, and Benteen commands are well detailed at the national monument Visitor Center and in the official "Little Bighorn Battlefield" National Park Handbook.

When the dust settled on June 25, Custer's 210 cavalymen had died. Reno and Benteen's troops fought on, east of the last stand site.

On June 27 the Far West anchored at the confluence of the Little Bighorn and the Bighorn Rivers near present day Hardin. On the 28th, the survivors of the Reno/Benteen troops were taken to the steamer. On the 30th, they started down river with the survivors and Capt. Keogh's horse, Comanche.

Near present day Terry, MT is one of Custer's campsites, where his troops carved their names on Sheridan Butte along the Yellowstone River. The names are still visible to adventurers who hike to see them. The Far West docked near Terry, and graves mark the Reno/Benteen troops who died of battle wounds and were buried when the steamer docked.

The Last Stand Re-Enactment is held each June in Hardin. (See page 81.)

The Nez Perce Trail

In 1877 a large group of non-treaty Nez Perce Indians passed through the Custer Country Region, led by Chief Joseph. They fought a pitched battle with the military, led by Col. Samuel D. Sturgis, in the hills north of Laurel, MT now known as the Canyon Creek Battlefield.

In their flight from northern Oregon toward asylum in Canada, the band of about 800 people, including 125 warriors, carried by 2,000 Appaloosa horses, traveled over 1,700 miles. They fled and fought skirmishes first east across Idaho, then south through Idaho, then across Yellowstone Park, east across a

corner of Wyoming, then up the Clark's Fork River. An eyewitness account by Andrew (Jack) Garcia, a civilian employee with Sturgis' command, quoted in the Laurel newspaper in 1937, states that the Nez Perce crossed the Yellowstone River on a ford above the mouth of the Clark's Fork, about where the present highway bridge crosses the stream.

The Indians, said Garcia, moved eastward after crossing the river and raided the stage station on the Bozeman Trail, near the mouth of Canyon Creek. The Indians then moved northwest, heading for the mouth of the canyon north of Laurel. The soldiers took an angling course from the river to intercept the Nez Perce before they reached the canyon. He said the battle began about 4:00 p.m. Using tactics that earned Chief Joseph the title of "Indian Napoleon," the warriors engaged the soldiers, allowing the main body to move to safety. At dark, the thousands of rounds of firing ceased, and the warriors took their people across country to the Musselshell River.

Following a skirmish at Cow Island on the Missouri River, Joseph moved his band to a camp thirty miles south of the Canadian border. The command of Generals Howard and Miles surrounded them there. On October 4, 1877, Chief Joseph gave his moving speech: "Hear me, my chiefs. I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

A statue of the famous chief is in the park in downtown Laurel. A marker seven miles north of the town commemorates the Canyon Creek Battle.

Map and brochure available for a nominal fee from BLM, P.O. Box 940, Miles City, MT 59301.



Nez Perce Chief Joseph

Museums and Art Centers

Preserve Custer Country Heritage



Photos: Left—Western Heritage Center features history all along the Yellowstone Valley. Below—Yucca Theater Museum, Hysham, Montana

Custer Country's museums are rich in heritage and history.

Public Museums

Ashland, CHEYENNE INDIAN MUSEUM, off Hwy. 212 at St. Labre School, Indian artifacts and gallery. 8-4:30 daily in summer, weekdays in winter (406) 784-2200. Free

Baker, O'FALLON MUSEUM, 723 S. Main behind courthouse, World's largest steer, homesteader items, early farm equipment, vintage clothing. Old jail building. Closed Mon. & Sat. (406) 778-3265 or 778-2300. Free.

Billings, P.B. MOSS MANSION, 914 Division St. Elegant turn-of-the century historic home. Guided tours. Open daily; seasonal hours. Admission. (406) 256-5100.

Billings, OSCAR'S DREAMLAND, off I-90, Exit 446, west on Frontage Rd., 1 mile S. of Market Basket. Historic town, largest collection of steam engines, antique vehicles, farm artifacts. 9-6 May-Oct. Admission. (406) 656-0966 (or 245-4598 Nov.-April.)

Billings, WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER, 2822 Montana Ave. Regional museum presenting history and culture of the Yellowstone Valley. AAM accredited. Hrs. 10-5 Tues-Sat., 1-5 Sun. (406) 256-6809. Free.

Billings, PETER YEGEN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MUSEUM. Across from terminal parking lot, Logan International Airport. Old West, Indian artifacts. 10:30-5 M-F, 2-5 Sun. (406) 256-6811. Free.

Broadus, POWDER RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER AND MAC'S MUSEUM, 102 W. Wilson. Western history, rodeo, and activities. Indian artifacts, sea shells & displays 9-5 M-Sat., June-Sept. Free.

Broadus, WILDLIFE MUSEUM, Highway 212. Over 115 North American Specimens on display. Mon.-Sat. 406-436-2538. Free.

Crow Agency, LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT MUSEUM, (and Custer National Cemetery), Junction of Hwy. 212 and I-90, Exit 510. Battlefield artifacts, displays, tours, bookstore, cemetery. Summer 8-8, Spring/Fall 8-6, Winter 8-4:30. Park fee. (406) 638-2621.

Ekalaka, CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM, Prehistoric specimens, anatosaurus skeleton, and artifacts. Closed Mon. Free.

Forsyth, ROSEBUD COUNTY PIONEER MUSEUM. Main St. Collections from founding families, Indian beadwork, barbed wire, vintage clothing, machines. May 1-15 Daily 1-7; May 15-Sept. 15 Mon.-Sat. 9-7, Sun. 1-7. Free.

Garryowen, CUSTER BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM, I-90 Exit 514. Famed David F. Barry battle photograph collection. Tomb of the unknown soldier. Daily summer 8-9, winter 9-5. (406) 638-2000. Admission.

Glendive, FRONTIER GATEWAY MUSEUM. 1 mile E. of Glendive, Montana prehistory to present; homesteading. Open daily mid-May to mid-Sept. (406) 365-8168. Free.

Hardin, BIG HORN COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND STATE VISITOR CENTER. I-90, exit 497. Cultural exhibits, restored buildings, picnic area, gift shop. Winter Mon.-Sat. 9-5 Summer Daily 8-8. 665-1671. Free.

Huntley, HUNTLEY PROJECT MUSEUM OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE, 5,000 agriculture artifacts. At Osborn Park, 12 mi. west of Pompeys Pillar, 3 mi. east of Huntley on U.S. Hwy 312. Open summer. Free.

Hysham, TREASURE COUNTY MUSEUM, Main Street, Pioneer History. Open afternoons. Manning family collection and theater. Free.

Miles City, RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM & BERT CLARK GUN COLLECTION. US 10 & 12, W. of Miles City. Early range life; eastern Montana ranching history. April-Oct. 9-9. Admission. (406) 232-6146.

Pryor, CHIEF PLENTY COUPS MUSEUM. Crow culture. May 1 -Sept. 30 10-5, Daily. Off season by appointment. Admission. (406) 252-1289.

Richey, RICHEY HISTORICAL

MUSEUM. Local community history of pioneers in a 6-building complex. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day, M-W-F, 2-5 and by appointment. Free.

Roundup, MUSSELSHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. 524 1st. W. Pioneer era cabin, 5-room house, coal mine. 7,000 sq. ft. exhibit area. 1-5 Daily. May-Sept. Free.

Terry, PRAIRIE COUNTY MUSEUM, historic bank complex, steam heated outhouse, pioneer homestead. Lady Cameron photos. Memorial Day to Labor Day, Wed.-Mon. Closed Tues. Free.

Terry, CAMERON GALLERY, Lady Cameron photo collection of homesteaders in eastern Montana. Free.

Wibaux, CENTENNIAL CAR MUSEUM & STATE VISITOR CENTER, and the Pierre Wibaux and badlands cowboy interpretive center built by Pierre Wibaux in 1892. Museum complex: Pierre Wibaux house museum, antique barber shop, livery stable. Free tours May-Sept. (406) 795-2381.

Public Art Centers

Billings, YELLOWSTONE ART CENTER, 401 N. 27th St. Nationally accredited art museum. Changing exhibitions: contemporary and historic. Closed 1996 for expansion. (406) 256-6804. Free.

Hardin, JAIL HOUSE GALLERY. 218 N. Center. Rotating art exhibits, Western & American Indian arts and crafts. (406) 665-3239. Free.

Miles City, CUSTER COUNTY ART CENTER, WATER WORKS GALLERY. Water Plant Rd., west of town. Annual Western Art Show, L.A. Huffman photographs. Open Feb.-Dec., Tues.-Sun. 1-5. (406) 232-0635. Free.

Miles City, WOOL HOUSE GALLERY. 419 N. 7th St. In 1909 wool warehouse for Milwaukee RR. Tues.-Sat. 1-5. (406) 232-0769. Free.



New Exhibits at Battlefield Museum

New museum exhibits at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument help tell the compelling story of the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The interpretive stories include "People of the Plains," an exhibit describing the Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho people at the time of the battle in 1876.

Full-size photographic cut-outs and artifacts from the battlefield collection interpret the many roles that tribal members played, including the warrior's dual role as hunter and warrior.

"Tools of the Battle" describes the vast assortment of weapons used in the battle by the Seventh Cavalry and the Native American warriors.

"Unraveling the Mystery," is an exhibit describing the important archaeological surveys conducted on the battlefield and how the recovered artifacts provide an understanding of what may have happened during the battle. Firearms analysis and forensic pathology have revealed not only individual weapon types and details of movements during the battle, but also important clues about the various equipment used by both sides. Clues from skeletal remains of soldiers recovered over the years reveal information about their diets, health, age and height.

According to Gerard Baker, superintendent of the battlefield, the museum had changed little since the 1960's. The museum rehabilitation is one of the most extensive projects undertaken by the National Park Service.



Print by Ralph Heinz, "With Their Backs to the Wall," courtesy of Custer Battlefield Preservation Committee, Inc.

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Where Legends Live



A realistic display of Indian culture is part of Little Big Horn Days Weekend

Craig A. Warren Photo

Hardin

Western History Comes Alive ★

Hardin is the heart of Custer Country. Custer meets his demise here every year. Civilized fun and comforts include a pioneer museum, an art gallery, trading posts, a variety of interesting shops, a kiddie playground, an indoor swimming pool and exercise rooms, and a golf course.

Motels, campgrounds and restaurants will keep you comfortable while you explore the Little Bighorn Battlefield and Custer National Cemetery, Bighorn Canyon National

Recreation Area, Yellowtail Dam, and the Bighorn River.

Besides being the home of Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment and Little Big Horn Days, Hardin has other events from rodeos and parades to street dances, from art and craft shows to quilt shows. See the calendar of events in this section, or call the Chamber of Commerce office for details (406) 665-1672.

Historians say the town was named for Samuel H. Hardin, a cattle man from Wyoming who leased tracts of

land on the Crow Reservation to range his cattle. Local industry now includes farming and ranching, surface coal mining, fishing and recreational opportunities.

You'll see sugar beets, corn, wheat, and barley in the fields. The raising of beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and quarter horses is part of the livestock economic picture.

Western Experiences

Hardin and the surrounding area offer western experiences involving history and horses.

A special camp imparts cavalry training and the chance to participate in the Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment. Wagon train rides and horseback riding and trail rides can be arranged by appointment.

Team roping events are held often at local ranches and at rodeos. And there are working ranches which offer horseback riding, fishing, local tours and sightseeing.

History Comes to Life

Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment, June 21-23, 1996 is part of the Little Big Horn Days celebration of cultural heritage, held annually in Hardin— June 19-23 in 1996.

The five-day festival features a PRCA Rodeo, as well as a radio variety show, military ball, carnival, downtown

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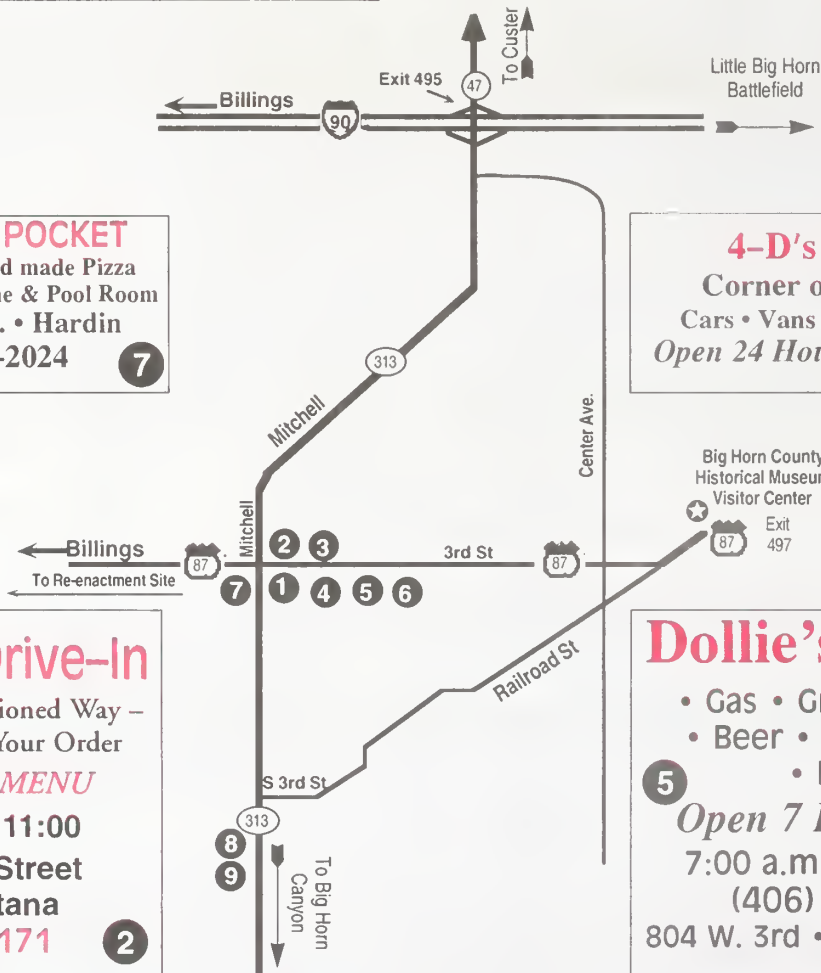
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4





You can join the "U.S. Cavalry" and ride the route that Custer rode when you sign on with the Davis Creek Camp Company of Hysham, MT. Here, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer (Steve Alexander of Jackson, MI) is flanked by cavalry riders who have been members of the cavalry.

Phil Whitlow/Davis Creek Camp Photo

parade, street dance, arts and crafts booths, country breakfast, gospel service, book fair, seminars and Scandinavian feed. Many events are free, and the country-style meals are moderately priced with families in mind.

Last Stand Re-Enactment

Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment is listed as one of the "Top 100 Events in America" by Destinations Magazine.

Indeed, this, the most famous Indian-cavalry battle in history, is one of the biggest annual attractions in all of Custer Country. The battle took place 120 years ago on June 25, 1876.

Held six miles west of Hardin, the performances of Custer's Last Stand Re-Enactment are set for 1:30 and 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, June 21-22, and for 1:30 p.m. only on Sunday,

June 23. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 (five and under free). A Super Ticket, good for both the re-enactment and the Little Big Horn Days Rodeo, is a family buy. Two adults and two children are admitted for \$40, or three adults and two children for \$45.

To order tickets, call the Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce at (406) 665-1672 or write to the chamber at 21 East Fourth, Hardin, MT 59034. Group rates for tickets purchased before June 15 may be negotiated.

In this vivid, hour-long spectacle, authentic Indian narration re-creates the background of General Custer's mission to drive the Sioux and Cheyenne to reservations, a mission that climaxes in a furious encounter near the original battle site.

The cast of 300 includes descendants

of both the Indian scouts who rode with Custer and the homesteaders who settled the Montana plains. Steve Alexander, one of the country's foremost experts on Custer history, plays Custer. Besides the historic knowledge he bears, he has a close physical resemblance to Custer.

One of the 11,000-plus visitors at the re-enactment stated, "It's like really being there—smack dab in the middle of history." You can be there, too!

News to the World

What would daily interviews with Custer's troops have told the world if radio media had been what it is today? In a radio re-enactment, Hardin station KHDN (AM 1230) puts a reporter into the 1870's to find out. He is assigned to ride with Custer's 7th Cavalry regiment for a month preceding the June 25, 1876 battle.

The reporter takes frequent side trips to the Sioux and Cheyenne camps, reporting details of the Indian nation activities in the days leading up to the vast gathering of tribes on the Little Bighorn River.

Regular broadcasting is interrupted with news flashes as the two foes march through the days of destiny to the inevitable end. Cassettes of the broadcasts are sold at the Big Horn

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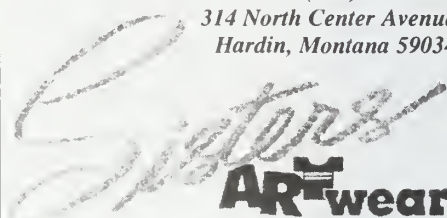
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County Historical Museum, the chamber office, and the radio station. Proceeds benefit the museum and the battle re-enactment.

For year round, 24-hour information about the battlefield and the Hardin area, tune to AM radio stations 530 and 1610.

Little Big Horn Days

All events set for Wednesday, June 19 kick off with a stage play at 7:00 p.m. titled "At Home on the Range," a radio variety show, created by local writers.

Then, the Mountain Carousel Carnival runs from noon until midnight Thursday, and continues through the weekend.

Formal introductions to Gen. George Armstrong Custer and his wife Libby are worth a diary entry for all who attend this Little Big Horn Days event. The Hardin Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture hosts an 1876 Military Ball in the Stagecoach Building at the Bighorn County Museum, Exit 497. Tickets are \$5 per person for dancers and spectators.

Guests in period dress arrive to a background of 1876 music. Then an auction of re-enactment memorabilia and flags provides souvenirs. The Grand March at 9:15 p.m. is led by Gen. and Mrs. Custer. The dance begins as



Colorful gowns and cavalry uniforms are the appropriate dress for the Military Ball at Hardin's Little Big Horn Days celebration. Spectators are welcome.

Dennis Sanders Photo

the California Gold Rush band plays authentic 1800's music. An instructor teaches dance steps of the time. Photographers capture the event for couples and groups during the evening. Last year's guests included "Tom Custer, Gen. and Mrs. William T. Sherman, and President and Mrs. U. S. Grant." Who knows who may show up this year!

The Little Big Horn Days third annu-

al professional rodeo is a PRCA sanctioned event, with stock provided by Powder River Rodeo Productions. Specialty acts and clowns will be featured. PRCA Rodeos draw top contenders in the sport of the West.

The rodeo will be June 21-22 at 8:00 p.m. at the Big Horn County Fairgrounds (south end of Center Ave. across the tracks).

Tickets for the rodeo on Friday and

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Saturday nights are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 6-12 (five and under free). Family prices are \$20 for two adults and two children, \$25 for three adults and two children.

Sellers offer wares downtown at a historical book fair, an arts and crafts fair, and antique show, Friday through Sunday.

The Little Bighorn Symposium is 9-2 Friday at the Middle School Auditorium. Speakers present their interpretations of various aspects of the battle, and invite discussions.

Organizers invite all youngsters to participate in the Old West Youth Parade downtown at 11 a.m., on Friday, followed by a hot dog lunch at the fairgrounds. Youth games, activities, prizes, and farm pet exhibits follow downtown and at the fairgrounds.

The parade is complete with Cavalry and Indians in full regalia on Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m. "Cowpokes, Dudes and Dandies: Men Who Made the West" is the theme of the stream of floats, bands and riders. Vendor booths downtown include food concessions. Following the parade, everyone is welcome at the Scandinavian feed at the American Lutheran Church until 7 p.m. A fee is charged.

Wake up to a Country Breakfast on Sunday at the Big Horn County Museum. A non-denominational old time gospel service will be held at 11 a.m. at the museum's restored church.

Except for the re-enactment, most events will be held in the town of Hardin or at the Big Horn County Museum, 1 mile east of Hardin. The re-enactment is at a site six miles west of

Hardin, just off the Old Hardin Road, Highway 87.

Draft Horse Show

Hardin hosts a new Draft Horse Show September 21-22 this year. The first free-standing event of its type and size in the area, the show will feature six of the top-rated horse hitches in the nation. Each team weighs in excess of 12,000 pounds. The Montana 4-H Driving Competition will be part of this event.

Jail House Gallery

The Jail House Gallery located at 218 North Center in Hardin, features monthly rotated exhibits of both regional and statewide shows, as well as a gift shop. The gallery is open year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

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State Visitor Center

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The Museum Complex has fourteen permanent buildings representing the area's past. Established in 1979, the Museum is situated on 24 acres.

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A PRCA rodeo is an exciting part of the Little Big Horn Days activities.

Donna Delp Photo

Undercover Gals Quilt Show

The Undercover Gals quilt guild of Hardin presents its 15th annual quilt show at the Becker Hotel September 3-14 in 1996. This is an open show featuring an antique quilt section and a challenge quilt contest. Quilt enthusiasts may write to: Quilts, Box 508, Hardin, MT 59034 for information.

Museum And Visitor Center

Directly off I-90 Exit 497, or Exit 495 and then through town, is the Big Horn County Historical Museum village. To their visitors, the museum staff and volunteers offer a cool, quiet stop, complete with interpretive displays of the

area's past. There is no charge to view the museum or to use the picnic area.

Sit down and relax in the museum while you watch your choice of videos about area attractions. The state information center links you with travel information.

The museum displays a complete selection of informational brochures and pamphlets about attractions throughout Montana and bordering states. The people who greet you are happy to give you personal insight into attractions in the area. Books pertaining to the area's history are for sale, as are other western gift and souvenir items.

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The Big Horn County Museum village is a hands on recording of the history of the West. Its buildings, displays and picnic grounds offer a relaxing spot to spend a couple of hours. Occasionally, church services are held on Sunday during the summer.

Donna Delp Photo

The displays concentrate on telling the story of Big Horn County. Surrounding the grassy, shady picnic area are buildings brought to the grounds and restored to their early-day best. Included are a schoolhouse, a farmhouse, a log cabin, a church, a doctor's office building, a blacksmith shop, a barn, a service station and a train depot. The old Corinth Store and Post Office looks like the proprietor just stepped out. The new Custer Stage Station is a Fort Custer cavalry barn replica.

Would you ride in the stagecoach on display that ran from Fort Custer in 1880 to Rock Creek, Wyoming? Have a look.

Far West Was Here

Just east of Hardin, where the Little Bighorn River joins the Bighorn, is the island site where the Far West stern-wheeler anchored on June 27, 1876, to evacuate the wounded from the Reno and Benteen battles, part of the Battle of the Little Bighorn. It was the Far West which carried survivors with the story of Custer's defeat to the world.



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Performing the rites of victory, these women and children acting out the "Last Stand" clash, will take the soldier's weapons and clothes and leave him defenseless against warriors in after-life

Phil Whitlow/Davis Creek Camp Photo

Arapooish Pond and Recreation Park

The new Arapooish Pond and Recreation Park is located one mile north of Hardin Exit 495 off Highway 47. The family park is at the Arapooish Fishing Access near the Bighorn River.

A six foot wide trail is an inviting path for hikers or cross country skiers. The recreation park has picnic tables

and self-contained bathrooms. Alcohol is prohibited.

A road allows driving to the picnic tables. No motorized vehicles may invade the north side of the pond.

Fishermen in non-motorized boats or canoes will like the small-mouth bass action, which should be good in summer and in winter, since aerators keep

the pond from freezing.

Summer hours are early morning to 9 p.m. Overnight camping is not allowed. In winter responsible parties may contact the county agent for a key. Call the county courthouse.

1996 in Hardin

May: High School Rodeo 11-12

June: Tractor Power Pull 8

Walleye Tournament 8-9

Quilts in the Library 15
through July 15

Military Ball 20

Little Big Horn Days 19-23

Little Big Horn Days Rodeo 21-22

Custer's Last Stand

Re-Enactment 21-23

July: Amateur Rodeo,

Talent Show & Fireworks 4

Hardin Youth Fair July 29-Aug. 4

Aug: Crow Fair at Crow Agency.15-19

Country Fun Day, Run and Walk 25

Sept: Undercover Gals Quilt Show ..3-14

Draft Horse Show 21-22

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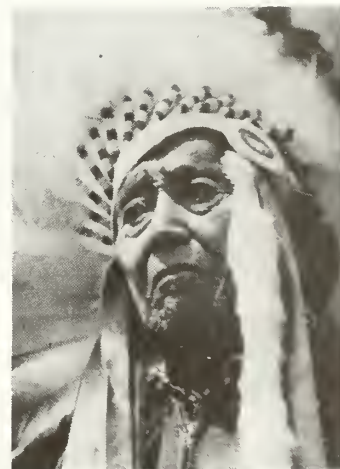
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Above: A wall tent was the church for St. Xavier's first mass, bringing the Gospel to the Crow nation.

Below: St. Xavier Church today.

Photos courtesy of Ruth Slattery



The influence of the Jesuits on the West is a living history experience at St. Xavier, south of Hardin on Highway 313.

Fr. Peter Paul Prondo, a Jesuit Priest, established the first mission at St. Xavier in 1887. The church is still in use and the school, affiliated with the St. Labre Mission School, also continues to operate.

Now called the Pretty Eagle School, after a famous Crow Chief, the K-8 school is attended by over 120 students from a 45 mile radius.

Fields of malting barley, alfalfa, and sugar beets surround the St. Xavier Mercantile, the single bustling business in this lazy town beside the renowned Bighorn River. "The Merc" also is a threshold to living history. Its historic shelves are filled with mercantile relics and life's most modern necessities. The walls are mounted with antique conversation pieces.

Guide and shuttle services, besides boat rentals are offered at St. Xavier. Highway 313 continues to Fort Smith and Yellowtail Dam (20 miles). Or from St. Xavier, Highway 091 leads to Pryor, home of the Chief Plenty Coups Museum (see page 127).



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Rhoda Blakley, co-owner of Cottonwood Camp north of Fort Smith, displays this 27-1/2 inch, 8 pound rainbow beauty she caught and released on the Bighorn River.

Alvin Blakley Photo

The Horn

Considered by many to be the finest trout stream in the U.S., the Bighorn River flows through Custer Country.

Boating

Boaters' guide for safe recreation on Custer Country's lakes and streams

One of the most important requirements for any watercraft is a life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD). A life jacket must be carried for each person on board plus at least one throwable device on a boat 16 feet or longer. Children under the age of 12 are required to wear (securely fastened to the body) a life jacket at all times while a craft less than 26 feet in length is in motion. For the protection of boaters, Montana requires safety equipment: fire extinguisher, flame arrester, ventilation system, sound producing device, personal flotation device, and lights at night.

Boats on Montana waters must be registered. Properly registered boats from other states, which will not be in Montana for more than 90 consecutive days, are exempt from registration and taxation. Motor boats from other countries may be used on Montana waters temporarily without Montana registration. A boat is registered at the Treasurer's Office in the county of principal use after 90 days. The fee in lieu of tax varies with the length and type of

vessel. An additional \$2.50 registration fee is charged. All motorboats, sailboats 12 feet or longer and other personal watercraft need a Hull Identification Number (HIN), which must be engraved on the hull of the craft. Boats built prior to 1972 will not have an HIN number and can have one issued by the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

A new no wake speed law prohibiting creation of a wake near swimmers and anchored boats requires courtesy in order to promote a good time for all water sport enthusiasts.

Young people, 13 and 14 years old, must possess a Montana motorboat operator's certificate when an adult is not on board, to operate a motorboat or other watercraft with a motor of greater than 10 horsepower. A home-study course for the certificate is available from Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620, or call (406) 444-2615. The test, work booklet and registration card must be returned to the Helena office for grading. Certificates will be mailed to those successfully completing the course.

The Bighorn River, flowing for nearly 50 miles between Fort Smith and Hardin, is the crown jewel in the treasure of Montana trout waters, and it might just be the finest fly fishing stream in America!

Since the completion of the Yellowtail Dam in 1965, the Bighorn has become a blue-ribbon fishing stream that attracts the experienced angler looking for that extra challenge, but is also a river for the family fishermen.

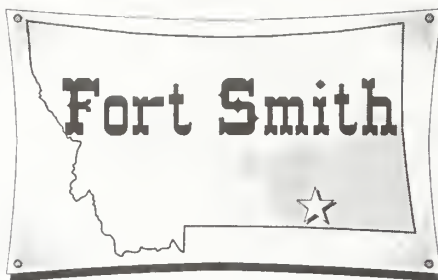
Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout. Brown trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present. Usually, the river is open and fishable year-round above Bighorn Access to Fort Smith.

Anglers normally put in at the Fort Smith Bridge. Half day trips commonly get out at the Three Mile Access. For a full day of float fishing, the twelve miles to the Bighorn Access offer lots of great fishing holes and a variety of stream flows, enough to satisfy the abilities of any angler.

For novices, or even experts, experienced resident guides can maximize your fly fishing experience with lessons, river savvy, boats and equipment.

Camping is permitted at many points along the river, including Afterbay, Bighorn, Mallards Landing, and Two Leggings fishing accesses.

Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions is available at the guide services and boat rentals in Hardin, St. Xavier, and Fort Smith.



Bighorn Fishing Headquarters

The Bighorn River trout await the angler reaching Fort Smith, Montana, by way of Highway 313. Fort Smith businesses offer fishing supplies and fishing tips, lodging, dining, lunches for the river trip, groceries, gasoline, and souvenirs.

Boats launch at the Afterbay area to float through some of the greatest trout fishing in the world.

Fort C.F. Smith Site

Fort C.F. Smith was established on August 12, 1866, to protect immigrants traveling on the Bozeman Trail from

attacks by the Sioux Indians. The Bozeman Trail crossed the Bighorn River 400 yards from the fort.

Located near the present town of Fort Smith, all that remains of the site are low mounds and interesting stories. The site is on private land and visitors may see it by making prior arrangements at the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center. (Located at the dam, the visitor center is operated by the National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation. It is open in the summer.)

One of the original officers quarters buildings from Fort Custer is now at Fort Smith. Fort Custer was estab-

lished in 1877, built atop a bluff overlooking Hardin. The building was removed from the fort site and used as a ranch house for many years, but has now been acquired by a Crow business woman and is a native American gift shop and a bed and breakfast business at Fort Smith.

Campfire Programs

Public programs are offered at the Ok-A-Beh Marina every Saturday evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Fishing and recreation, history and wildlife of Bighorn Canyon are the topics at these gatherings.



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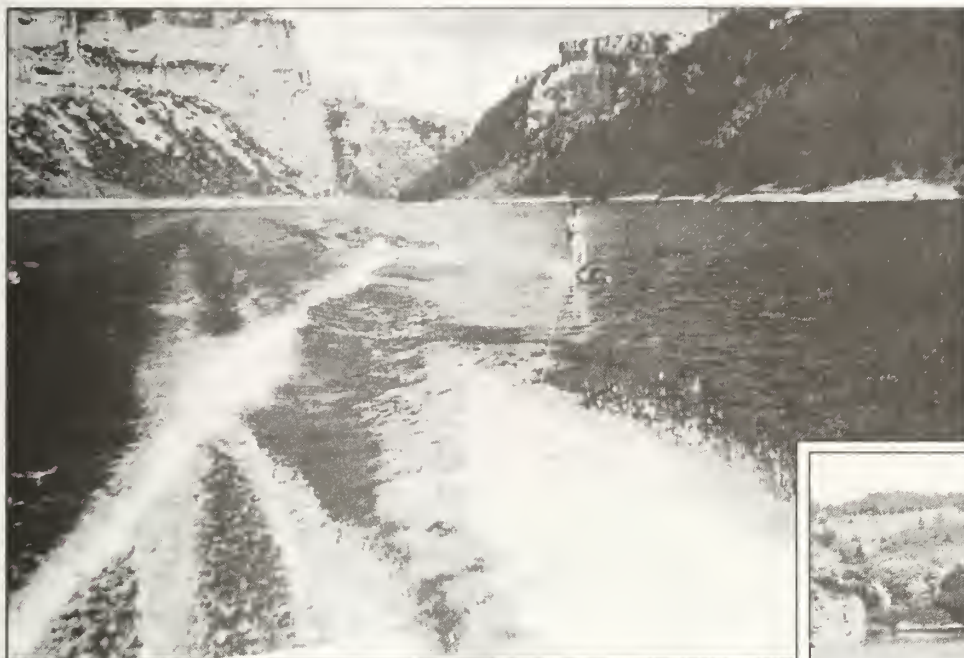
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Water Sports!

Above: The wake is endless at Bighorn Canyon Reservoir, where a steep stone corridor guards a deep blue ribbon of water recreation.

Mark Chandler Photo

Right: Boat docks at Ok-A-Beh launch the fun.

Photo courtesy of Ok-A-Beh Marina



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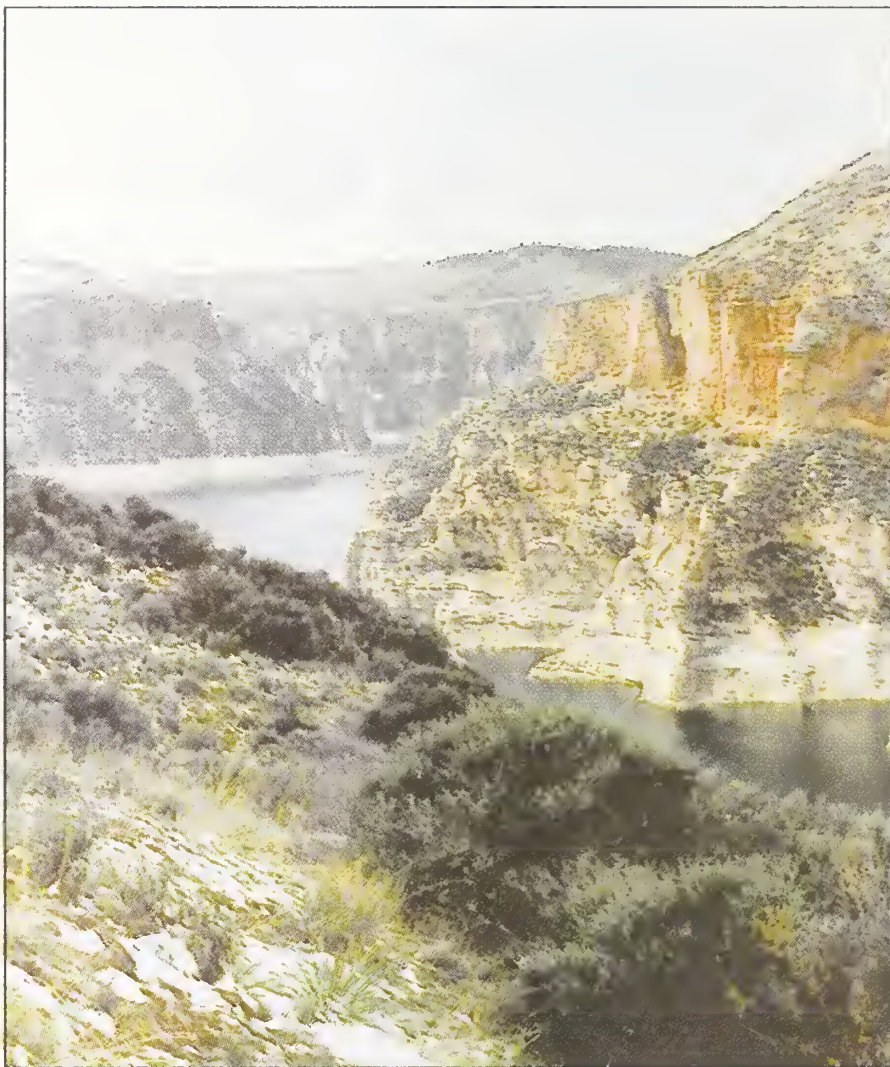
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Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area is a spectacular 71 mile long lake that straddles the Montana-Wyoming state line. Bighorn Lake may be reached from Hardin, MT via Montana Highway 313, or on the south end from Lovell, WY, by Wyoming State Highway 37.

Donna Delp Photo

The Canyon

Bighorn Canyon Offers Unmatched Recreation

Yellowtail Dam rises 525 feet between the rugged walls of Bighorn Canyon, and spans 1,480 feet along its crest. This tall, variable-thickness, arch-type dam backs up the water of Bighorn Lake for 71 miles. The reservoir was developed to provide generation of power, irrigation, recreation, fishery enhancement, sedi-

ment retention, municipal and industrial water and flood control.

And the fishing and recreation are outstanding!

Bighorn Canyon offers year-round fishing opportunities. Walleye, rainbow and brown trout, yellow perch, ling, crappie, and catfish are among the usual catches. Fishing regulations and

limits follow state laws and fishing license regulations. Winter ice fishing is popular with ling, walleye and trout commonly caught.

Water conditions below the Afterbay Dam are ideal for trout, and this portion of the Bighorn River has developed into a blue ribbon trout fishery. Brown trout are the most abundant with rainbow trout also present. Information on limits, regulations, and fishing conditions are available at the Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center during the summer season. Guide services, boat rentals, vehicle shuttle service, food and equipment are available in Fort Smith. Float distance from the Afterbay Dam to 3-Mile (Lind) Access is 3 miles. The distance from 3-Mile Access to the Bighorn Access is 10 miles.

Limited boat tours (as available), hiking trails, camping, scenic drives, and ranger-led activities are also offered in the Fort Smith, Yellowtail Dam area.

Self-guided tours of two to three hours, half-day, full-day, and more than a day, have been designed. Forty-five minute public programs about wildlife, Crow Indian culture, geology, and park-related subjects are offered. Also, a walking historic tour of the Fort Smith site is offered with prior arrangements. Other special demonstrations and programs are offered during the summer.

Camping at Bighorn Canyon is available in a variety of environments in designated areas. Call the National Park Service for more information about all of the above, (406) 666-2412.

Ok-A-Beh Marina has boat rentals, food concessions, gas, ice, gifts and boating and fishing supplies available. For boat rental reservations and information call (406) 666-2349 from May 15 to Sept. 15. In winter phone (406) 665-2216.

Information about the area is displayed through exhibits, printed materials, and the film, "Land of the Bighorn." To receive detailed informational materials write: Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center, Box 458, Fort Smith, MT 59035, or call (406) 666-2339.

Visitors may take a guided tour down into the dam. The Yellowtail Dam Visitor Center is operated by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. It is open daily 9 to 6, Memorial Day through Labor Day. It is located at the end of Highway 313 at Yellowtail Dam. For information, call (406) 666-3234.

Some For The Record Book

Five record-size fish were caught in Montana's waters in 1994: arctic grayling, 3.21 lb.; big-mouth buffalo, 57 lb. 12 oz.; black bull-head, 2.33 lb.; sauger, 8.805 lb.; small-mouth buffalo, 32 lb. 10 oz.; and tiger muskellunge, 27 lb. A Flathead chub, 4.8 oz.; a saugeye, 15.66 lb.; a walleye, 16.29 lb.; and a white crappie, 2 lb. 7 oz. took over record positions in 1995.

Following are the record fish caught in the Custer Country tourism region of the state: black crappie, 3 lb. 2 oz., by Al Elser, 1973, Tongue River Reservoir; blue sucker, 11.46 lb., Doug Askin, 1989, Yellowstone River near Miles City; green sunfish 0.56 lb., Roger Fliger, 1991, Castle Rock Reservoir; northern pike, 37 lb. 8 oz., Lance Moyler, 1972, Tongue River Reservoir; paddlefish, 142 lb. 8 oz, Larry Branstetter, 1973, Missouri River; river carsucker 3.50 lb., James Jessen, 1991, Yellowstone River near Terry; rock bass, .57 lb., Don Holzheimer, 1989, Tongue River Reservoir; shovelnose sturgeon, 13.72 lb., Sidney L. Storm, 1986, Missouri River; pallid sturgeon, 60 lb., Gene Sattler, 1979, Yellowstone River; white crappie, 2 lb. 7 oz., Edward Field, 1995, Tongue River Reservoir.

For a complete copy of Montana's record fish of all species, write to the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1420 East Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620.



Scott Warden, an outfitter on the Bighorn River, holds this rainbow just long enough for the camera lens to capture the vivid stripe that gives this species its name, then releases it back into the water.

Photo courtesy of Exodus Outfitters



Gordon Rose, owner of Quill Gordon guide service, holds two fish caught simultaneously out of the same boat by two of his Texas clients on the Bighorn River. Both fish were hooked on a fly called Gordy's Worm.

Photo courtesy of Quill Gordon

Maybe you are a fly fisherman who knows every cadis and streamer. Or perhaps you prefer lures, or maybe live bait. And then again, maybe you have never fished before in your life.

No matter what your category, plan on doing some fishing in Montana's Custer Country Region. Bring your own rod and tackle box, or let one of the abundant sporting goods shops outfit you.

Any fisherman has heard the fame of the Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers. And the Bighorn Lake spawns beauties like the walleye shown on this page. There are numerous other rivers, streams, reservoirs and ponds throughout the area abundant with fish.

Variety is the name of the fishing game here. Nowhere else can you catch cutthroat (Montana's native), rainbow, brown, and brook trout; kokanee and coho salmon; walleye; sauger; whitefish; bass; catfish; ling; sturgeon; and the prehistoric paddlefish.

License and Regulation Information

Resident fishing licenses are \$13.00 plus a \$4 conservation license. Residents 12-14 and over 62 need only a conservation license to fish. All nonresidents, 15 years and older will need a Montana fishing license. A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish. A nonresident temporary fishing license, valid for two consecutive days, costs \$10. A season license is \$45. Nonresidents will need a \$5 conservation license besides the fishing license. The season runs from March 1 to February 28 (29). If you go paddlefish fishing, in addition to your fishing licenses, you will need to purchase a paddlefish tag. These are \$5 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents.

For complete information on regulations, limits, seasons, baits, etc., write: Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters, 2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105. Or write: Fish, Wildlife and Parks Regional Headquarters, Box 2004, Miles City, MT 59301.

Access Abounds

Fishing access sites, managed by the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, are noted on the map on page 6 of this publication. Facilities at each vary somewhat. However, some are furnished with restrooms and most have camping and picnicking facilities.

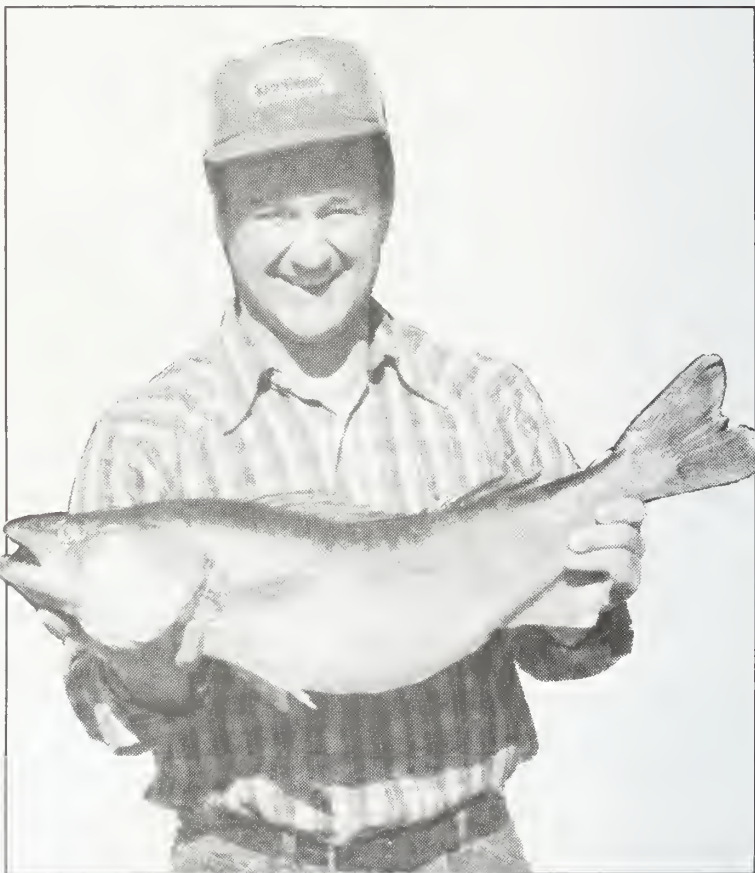
Boat ramps are available at many locations. A fishing pond booklet for southeastern Montana, which is designed to help anglers find good farm and ranch ponds, is available at the two FWP offices in Custer Country listed above.

Please Ask First

Montana works hard to maintain a good sportsman/landowner relationship. What makes things run smoothly can be summed up in two words—"ask permission." The Montana Stream Access Law states that rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. However, although Montana law gives sportsmen the right to pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water marks of rivers and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams. You must ask permission first.

Also, sections 16 and 36 within each township of the state are designated as "State Land." A \$5 Recreational Use License is required to cross or use any state lands.

Angler's Heaven



Tom Brown of Laurel, MT, caught this 12-1/2 lb. walleye at Bighorn Canyon Reservoir. He used standard walleye tackle.

Chris Wester Photo

*There's Blue Ribbon
Fishing in
Custer Country*

Hysham, the county seat of Treasure County, is bordered just to the north by the Yellowstone River and to the south by beautiful rolling hills.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, soon after Montana territory earned its statehood in 1889, Hysham was a part of the great expanse of Custer County. It was on what was then Crow Indian Reservation. Cattle branded with the Flying E grazed near the Northern Pacific tracks where trainmen threw off supplies "for Hysham." Charlie J. Hysham was associated with the Flying E Ranch which ran thousands of cattle in an area between the Bighorn River on the west to Reservation Creek on the east, and from the Yellowstone River to the Wyoming line.

Treasure County has some outstanding historic sites. Manuel Lisa built the first building, a fur trading post in Montana near the mouth of the Bighorn River in 1807. Fort Cass was the first fort built by the American Fur Co. on the Yellowstone, just three miles below the mouth of the Bighorn. Fort Pease was a stockade constructed in 1875, near the mouth of the Bighorn, as a defense against a party of Sioux Indians and also as a trading post. Remnants of Fort Pease still stand on the

original site. Other locations of forts remain a mystery.

Located about half-way between Miles City and Billings on Interstate 94, Hysham has just about everything a visitor could need. Dropping down from the hills, newcomers will see this agricultural community spread before them in a panorama of green fields, pasture land

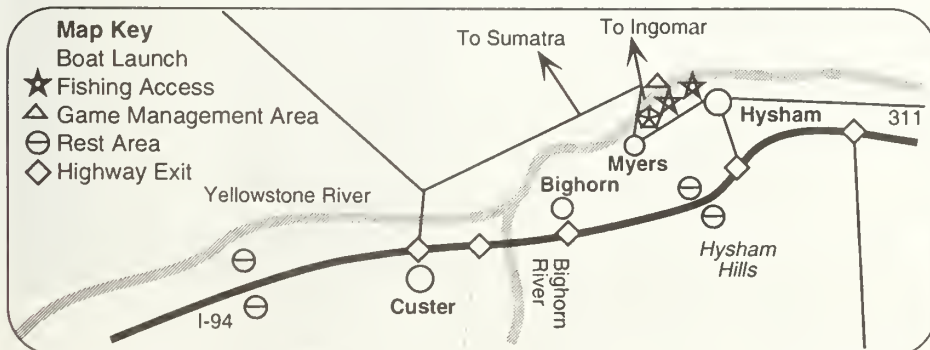
and strips of grain. The community has four churches, a swimming pool for youngsters and adults, a city park with covered picnic facilities and free overnight camping, and tennis courts available at the school. For small airplanes, there is a lighted airport landing strip about two miles east of Hysham along a secondary highway. Treasure County has a museum on Hysham's main street. Across from the museum is the Manning family home and theater, which was donated to the town and is in the process of being preserved and opened to the public. "Tales of Treasure County," a history of the people and events of the area is sold at the museum.

Deer and antelope, pheasants, geese, turkeys, grouse, sage hens, and ducks make good hunting for local and out-of-state hunters.

The Myers Arena, about six miles from Hysham, is operated by members of the Treasure Riders, who sponsor roping and riding events during summer months.

Along the Yellowstone, which meanders through the area, there are numerous access sites for traveler enjoyment. As shown on the map, there is a boat dock at the state fishing access site at Myers Bridge. So take a break in Hysham and explore the fossil dig. Enjoy agate hunting or fishing, camping or boating.

Everyone is invited to enjoy the annual 4th of July parade barbecue, and fireworks at the City Park.



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Olivia Nohl of Switzerland came to Montana to hunt and went home with a 16 inch pronghorn. The buck antelope was a trophy for this European, even though it did not score in the record books.

Photo courtesy of Flying W Outfitters

"The town was very prettily located along the bank of the Yellowstone..." So wrote a steamboat captain about Junction City in the 1880's. Not much remains of Junction today—some old bottles and buttons and lots of tall tales—but the same quote can be said of Custer, the offshoot of Junction, born as the Yellowstone washed away at her.

Custer is a friendly town with lots of surprises for the traveler. Along the nearby Yellowstone River there is fishing, camping, boating and water skiing. For the explorer, there is rustic Boothill Cemetery, dedicated to the driver of an ill-fated stage coach, and the site of old Junction—"She was a daisy while she lasted." Nearby at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, is the site of Fort Manuel Lisa, the first building in Montana erected by white men.

Services available in Custer include a motel, antique and gift shop, gasoline, groceries, eats, repairs, and the local pubs.

Take a break and stretch your legs in the city park, which boasts tennis courts, a volleyball court and plenty of

room for picnics. The old Great Northern Depot is in the park. Though the depot is in the process of being restored, shiny new bathroom facilities are already available for public use.

Float for Fish and Search for Agates

If you want some solitude and variety in your fishing, head downstream from Billings on the Yellowstone River. The lower Yellowstone has an amazing fishery all its own — channel catfish, sauger, ling, walleye, shovelnose sturgeon and trout.

During the warm months of summer, floaters in rafts and canoes can camp and fish all the way to the North Dakota border.

This is also a prime agate hunting

area. Floating the river allows recreationists to search the many sand and gravel bars along the shore as well as those exposed in midstream.

Ling—"Poor Man's Lobster"

Ling, the eel-like fish with the strange appearance and the delicious flavor of lobster, are caught in the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers from the end of November to the end of February. Minnows and worms are the bait to use. Custer, just minutes away from the confluence of these two rivers, has many resident experts who can provide the fisherman with directions and tips.

Join the fun of the Labor Day Roping and Dance September 1-2, 1996.

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Golden Valley County was named one autumn day after frost had colored the trees along the Musselshell River a brilliant yellow. The river flows across the width of the county, and for present day tourist travel, Interstate Highway 12 follows the same scenic route. In contrast, the Big Snowy Mountains lie east and west on the northern border. Long ago, the last of the road signs which marked the famous Buffalo Trail Highway were taken as souvenirs. Today, a historic monument commemorates the site where Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce Indians crossed the Musselshell River in their flight north toward Canada.



Ryegate

Ryegate, the county seat, is on the western edge of the Custer Country tourism region. Nestled under the high rimrocks of the Musselshell River, the town is set in true central Montana cattle and sheep ranch land. The State Recreation Area of Dead Man's Basin, a few miles west, is well known for camping, fishing, boating and swimming.

In Ryegate a visitor will find a grocery store, restaurant, two bars, a post office, and gas station.

Lavina

About 45 miles northwest of Billings, on Highway 3, the most direct route to Canada from the south, is Lavina, the center of a farming and ranching community where everyone is considered a friend and neighbor.



Woolly sheep banded together are herded across Montana grasslands. They are part of the agricultural base of the state's economy, where farming and ranching and all of the production stages of agriculture are the number one industry.

Donna Delp Photo



Pronghorn antelope are numerous on Custer Country's prairies. *Gloria Wester Photo*

Lavina, on the north-south route, was an early trading post and stage stop, started in the late 1800's by Walter Burke, who operated the stage line. When the railroad came through in the early 1900's, many of the buildings in town were built, the historic Adams Hotel being one of the first. This famous landmark still sits on Main Street as a tribute to this once bustling town.

Lavina, situated on the Musselshell River, is noted for its catfish and trout. Hunting and fishing licenses can be purchased at the Lavina Bar.

Stop and fish in some of the lakes and streams or hunt the various wildlife that is in the area.

Lavina has a country store, a cafe, city park, a service station, a bar, a

beauty shop, post office, churches, a senior citizen center, and a meat cutting business. A blacksmith and a potter make a variety of items.

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The Roundup Cattle Drive made Centennial history in 1989 when 3,500 riders saddled up alongside 250 wagons, and herded 3,000 head of cattle to Billings. A re-make of the event—on a smaller scale—is scheduled each year for six days and five nights. The 1996 dates are August 18-23. Join up!

Gerald "Stub" Bartow Photo



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Roundup—a town with a unique name—is nestled in the valley near the Musselshell River. It has long been renowned for its natural geographic design for rounding up livestock. It is still a place where old-fashioned values and ideals are present.

One of the highlights this year will be the seventh annual Roundup Cattle Drive. This annual event is organized by Roundup Cattle Drives, Inc. The drive is the western adventure of a lifetime (though not as dramatic as the movie, "City Slickers," makes it look!)

You'll enjoy the scenery of the wide open trail for six days and five nights, August 18-23, this summer.

One of the previous cattle drive participants shared these highlights of the journey:

"The adventure begins with riders and horses being matched up. Those of us who are a little too 'asphalt' for five days on horseback were assigned to wagon seats. Seasoned cowboys were on hand to help get horses saddled and guests settled.

"The first night's campsite was just a few miles down the trail. We pitched tents, had showers (tent style), and had a fantastic meal, fit for an outdoor appetite. We'd already made lots of friends and enjoyed live western music and dancing under the stars in the middle of the prairie. I heard a coyote call as I was falling asleep.

"It is up at dawn on the trail, watching wranglers catch horses. We were greeted with a hearty breakfast with cowboy coffee.

"We had lots of fun events and only minor mishaps on the trail. One of the favorite stories of mine is about a girl from New York who was on the drive with us. Her boyfriend saw some television coverage of her on the drive, and he flew out and met her and presented her with an engagement ring.

"For me, it was just the time of my life. I'm going back this next year!"

This year's drive will begin at the ranch house of the Brown Ranch, about 30 miles outside of Roundup. Not a single motorized vehicle will be seen during the cattle drive days. Besides being fun, the cattle drive is a real learning experience for participants who get a chance to find out exactly what farming and ranching operations are all about and why the delicate balance of the environment has always been so crucial here.



The National Old Timers Rodeo Association, organized in 1979, is headquartered in Roundup, and Montana was one of the original seven states in the organization. Fifty sanctioned rodeos are held each year, with contestants participating in these events to qualify for the National Finals held each fall.

Mike McCleary Photo

Around Town

The city has undergone a rejuvenation. The linden and flowering crab trees that you see flourishing along Main Street were a project of the Beauty Undertaken for Decades (BUD) organi-

zation. The trees were planted by many people in the community and symbolize a united effort. Planters full of flowers and benches for a rest in the business district are other inviting touches.

Businesses offer everything from

clothing to antiques to gourmet and espresso coffee shops. Wool weaving and spinning businesses are two "cottage industries" in Roundup. Be sure to tour these facilities and see the fascinating process of turning fleece into yarns. Advance notice will guarantee the visitor a chance to see demonstrations of the entire process.

The city has a park, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, golf course, hospital, municipal airport and a museum. The CowBelle Campground, located at



Musselshell Valley Historical Museum and homesteader cabin, Roundup, Montana

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the fairgrounds on the southeastern edge of Roundup, offers free overnight camping and RV parking. The peaceful setting, on the banks of the Musselshell River, provides a beautiful location for family reunions, camping and barbecues.

A hanging tree scene on Roundup's main street is a reminder of early-day justice in Montana Territory.

Historical Museum

Roundup is also famous for its Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, open April through September, 1-5 p.m. daily. On entering, sign in on the old registry of the early day Adams Hotel of Lavina. The museum houses a coal tunnel, complete with wooden car, carbide lamps, lunch pails, maps and photos. Other exhibits include fossils, local Indian artifacts, and paintings by local artists. Special rooms display the old Rothiemy Store and post office, a one room rural school, a dressmaker shop, and original operating rooms of the old Vicars Hospital. Changing exhibits, such as quilt shows, and local artist and sculpture showings are scheduled for one area of the museum during the summer months. The grounds have a blacksmith shop, print shop and the old NF Ranch home, built in 1884. Guided tours through the museum are actually living history lessons. No admission is charged.

Scenery and Wildlife

The Bull Mountains, south of Roundup, offer beautiful roadside geology and pine trees. Companies, adhering to careful reclamation

processes, mine coal in these mountains. North of town are oil wells, evidence of another rich mineral in the area. Also near Roundup are the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The Musselshell River, noted for its fine trout and catfish, also offers plentiful spots for relaxing picnics along its lazy banks. The oblong mussels, for which the river is named, can be collected as "jewels of the Musselshell."

Watch for deer, antelope, turkeys and pheasants when you drive through the area. Sharp-eyed spotters will see elk grazing against the backdrop of the Bull Mountains. Deer are especially noticeable at dusk and dawn on the side roads.

Towns East of Roundup

While you are in the area, check out these towns along Highway 12, between Forsyth and Roundup. Musselshell is a quiet little town with easy access to the Musselshell River. Nearby are Melstone, Ingomar, Sumatra and Vananda. Once bustling agriculture towns along Highway 12, the small communities remain as frontiers of close-knit neighborliness to area residents. The Jersey Lilly Cafe at Ingomar is known for its rustic amenities and good pot of beans.

Activities

Summer months in the Roundup area are full of activities such as rodeos ("rodeo" is the Spanish word for "roundup"), bazaars, demolition derbies and fairs. Spring, summer and fall outdoor activities include fishing, hunt-

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ing, backpacking, camping, golf, tennis, sightseeing and photography. Cross country skiing and snowmobiling add to the wintertime fun.

Bump & Run Motocross

You will want to be sure to attend the Bump & Run motocross competitions held throughout the summer. The excitement and thrill is contagious as the drivers navigate turns, bumps and jumps while trying to "bump" the other drivers out of the way and be the first to cross the finish line.

1996 Events in Roundup

April: Walleye Seminar, Community Center 11
Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Opens.....27
May: Bump & Run Motocross Rally .5
June: Child's Fishing Tank and Fly Casting Contest, Enjoy Sports.....1
Bump & Run Motocross Rally 2
Dist. High School Rodeo 7-9
Wagon Train Drive, ...June 30 - July 4
July: Parade, Night Show, Fireworks 3
Parade & NRA Rodeo 4
Bump & Run Motocross Rally 14
Tri-County Horse Show 13-14
Culpepper & Merriweather Circus...20



The Roundup Mountain Man Rendezvous and Cowboy Encampment is set for August 8-11 in 1996. Plan to be in the area to see how inventive and resourceful early explorers and cowboys were when it came to clothing, lodging, and eating.

Travel Montana Photo

Tri-County & 4-H Fair.....18-20	Bump & Run Motocross.....15
August: Roundup Mountain Man Rendezvous and Cowboy Encampment 8-11	Musselshell Valley Historical Museum closes 30
Bump & Run Motocross 4	Oct.: Air Gun Competition, Enjoy Sports.....5
Roundup Cattle Drive 18-23	Halloween Parade.....5
Sept.: Sr. Pro Rodeo Chute Out.....TBA	Dec.: Christmas Stroll.....7

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The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most daring adventures undertaken in "The New World."

Following the 1803 purchase of the Louisiana Territory from the French, President Thomas Jefferson was determined to have the vast western lands explored and documented.

As the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation states in a brochure, "Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, together with Sgts. Ordway, Gass and Floyd, and Private Whitehouse, recorded for posterity, the amazing chronicle of this great event in U.S. history.

"The recorded observations of these men during these years contributed vast new knowledge of theretofore unknown facts in many fields, including the physical and social sciences, and the arts.

"The Lewis and Clark Expedition literally spanned the North American continent, traversing areas which later would form many of our western states. By order of Congress, the lands of the newly acquired territory, and the watershed of the Columbia River claimed under discovery by Captain Robert Gray, were of paramount interest to the exploring party. The route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean provided priceless documentation of lands, peoples and resources within the present states of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon."

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. may be contacted by writing P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403. The non-profit organization accepts memberships and provides members with a quarterly publication,

"We Proceeded On."

Captain William Clark and his party explored the Yellowstone River. Lewis and the rest of the party had split from Clark's party on July 3, 1806 at present day Missoula to explore what is now northern Montana. Nine of the men went in Clark's party. Also accompanying them were interpreter, Touissant Charbonneau, his wife Sacajawea, their baby Jean Baptiste, (whom Clark called Pomp, an Indian word for "chief").

The Lewis and Clark Journals chronicle many exciting events in the Custer Country region, from the Park City-Laurel area to the Glendive region.

From the Three Forks area, where they camped July 13, to the Park City area, which they reached on July 19, the expedition had difficulty finding cottonwoods large enough to be made into canoes. They were traveling overland with 49 horses. Along this stretch, Private George Gibson fell on a burned snag that went "nearly two inches into the Muskeler part of his thy," according to Clark's journal entry. Then, while Charbonneau was chasing a buffalo, his horse stepped into a badger hole, throwing the guide over the horse's head and he was "a good deel bruised on his hip sholder & face." The party also encountered "emence swarms of Grasshoppers..." Further, Indian smoke signals had been seen that were interpreted as "takeing us to be their Enemy made this signal for other bands to be on their guard."

However, game was abundant. Chokecherry wood was found for axe handles, and, eventually, near Park City, two suitable cottonwoods were found for canoes.

On the morning of July 21, the intent of the smoke signals was discovered. Twenty-four of the horses had been

stolen in the night. The remaining horses were troublesome, since they insisted on chasing every buffalo encountered, as their original owners, Indians, had taught them to do.

On July 23 the canoes were ready. Clark and the rest lashed the two canoes together and headed down river. Three men took the remaining 25 horses overland. July 24 they floated past where the Clark Fork River flows into the Yellowstone River near Laurel, a place the Indians called "The lodge where all dance." Indeed, a large council lodge 60 feet in diameter had been built on an island there.

Just west of present day Billings, at the mouth of Canyon Creek, the horse party met Clark and the others, and they crossed the men and horses to the south bank of the Yellowstone. They camped east of Billings near the mouth of Pryor Creek.

On July 25, the party noticed a huge sandstone rock not far from the river. Clark climbed it and saw "Emence herds of Buffalows, Elk and wolves." Indian pictographs were on the rock, and to them he added his name and the date: Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806. He named the rock Pompey's Tower (now called Pompeys Pillar) after Sacajawea's baby.

At the mouth of the Bighorn River, their July 26 camp, the group was kept awake by the bellowing of the buffalo bulls.

Castle Rock, near present Forsyth, where the party camped the 27th, was noted in the journals. On the 28th, floating past Rosebud, Porcupine, and other creeks, the notable entry of the day was "The elk on the bank of the river were so abundant that we have not been out of sight of them today." The Indians, in fact, called the Yellowstone River the

"Elk River," because of the herds.

On July 29, near present day Miles City, Clark commented on "coal in great quantities" in the hills. On July 30, after one of the most difficult river navigations of what are present day Buffalo Rapids and Bear Rapids, the party came upon the Glendive Makoshika badlands, which Clark described as "birnt hills."

On July 31, 1806, they camped near present Glendive and recorded seeing a grizzly bear, "the largest I ever saw." It was eating a buffalo.

August 1 was rainy and windy. Clark reported that thousands of buffalo were crossing the river ahead of the canoes "as thick as they could swim." The herd was a quarter mile wide and took an hour and fifteen minutes to cross the river. After they set camp at present Savage (near Sidney) two more herds, just as big as the first, crossed the river.

By August 2, they reached the Missouri River, and would soon rejoin Lewis and his party.

On their journey through what would become Custer Country, Clark recorded what has become one of the most interesting historic trails in the world. Watch for signs that point out the trail and details of their journey as you travel where these brave, early explorers traveled nearly 200 years ago.

(Much of the material for this article was taken from a 1987 issue of Hoofprints magazine. The article, "Clark on the Yellowstone," was written by John Willard, a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Foundation and well known Billings area historian.)

Pompeys Pillar

Pompeys Pillar is one of the most famous sandstone buttes in the United States. It bears the only remaining physical evidence along the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. On the face of the 150 foot butte, Captain William Clark carved his name in 1806 on the return route of the expedition.

He named the pillar in honor of Baptiste, the small son of Sacajawea, the famous Indian woman who served as interpreter, along with her guide husband Charbonneau, on the historic journey. The boy had been nicknamed "Pomp," a Shoshone Indian name for "chief," thus—Pompeys Pillar.

Native Americans called the pillar "the place where the mountain lion



This J.K. Ralston painting depicts Custer and his men being fired upon by Indians while they camped at Pompeys Pillar. The incident occurred a year before the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Bureau of Land Management

lies." Some visitors think that a sandstone formation that is a part of the pillar which resembles a mountain lion's head is the reason for the name. Another theory is born out of the fact that live mountain lions have been spotted in the area.

In November, 1991, through the efforts of the Committee for the Preservation of Pompeys Pillar, the national landmark and surrounding land were purchased from a private owner by the Bureau of Land Management.

The scene above is a J. K. Ralston painting. Three paintings, other artwork, and a Lewis and Clark Trails historical library were also donated to the public by the private owners as a part of the transaction.

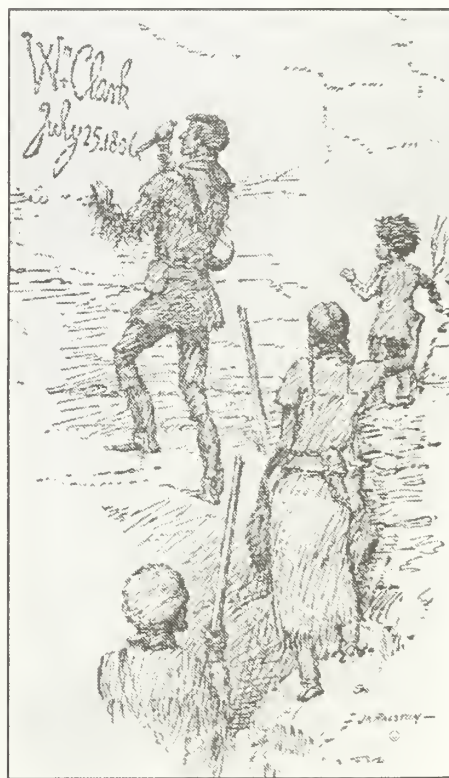
The view of the signature will be open to the public from Memorial Day through September, 1996. BLM staff members and Pompeys Pillar Association volunteers operate the attraction.

A boardwalk leads to Clark's signature and to the top of the pillar. Trails lead visitors past wild game antlers and Lewis and Clark canoe replicas down to a view of the river. It is easy to see why Clark's journals talk of the strong currents and dangers of the Yellowstone River. Though it looks broad and tame near the pillar, undercurrents and channels can prove a strong foe.

Birds and other wildlife are abundant in the area. Buffalo berries and

other native vegetation may be identified.

Long term planning for the area is in progress. Comments are welcome and should be directed to: BLM Pompeys Pillar, 810 East Main, Billings, MT 59105, Phone (406) 657-6262.



"I marked my name and the day of the month and year," wrote Captain William Clark in his journal. Sacajawea, her baby "Pomp," and another member of the exploration party watch him carve in this J.K. Ralston sketch.

Courtesy of US Bureau of Land Management



Huntley Project, located east of Billings on I-94, is a valley of lush crops. The valley is actually made up of four small communities: Huntley, Worden, Ballantine, and Pompeys Pillar.

The name "Huntley Project" is short for Huntley Irrigation Project, which is the second U.S. Bureau of Reclamation irrigation projects. The area was part of the Crow Indian Reservation from 1874 to 1904 when the government purchased the 35,000 acres, stretching 27 miles—from Huntley east to the Little Bull Mountains.

The irrigation headgates opened on the project July 22, 1907, and homesteading began. The Huntley Post Office was established in 1877, one mile upstream from present day Huntley. It was a stage station and stopping off place for freighters and travelers. It also served as head of steamboat navigation on the Yellowstone River. In 1882 Northern Pacific Railway built a section house and depot a mile east and on the

opposite bank of the river, and the growth center of Huntley followed. Since the town was located in the project, the Huntley Irrigation Project name came naturally.

Homesteader Days

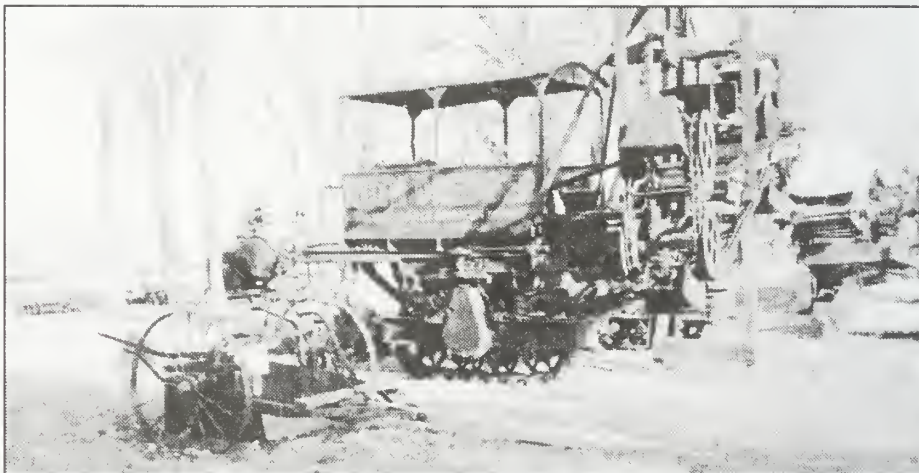
In 1964 the Huntley Project Lions Club organized the first "Homesteader Days."

The two-day celebration is held each year on the third weekend in July at Homesteader Park, located adjacent to the State Experiment Station, which is

fifteen miles east of Billings on old Highway 10 and also accessible off the interstate. See the map illustration on the next page.

The Annual Homesteader Days will be July 20-21, 1996. Homesteader Hall, a memorial to homesteaders who settled the area, is a 1989 state centennial project of the Huntley Project Lions Club. The 40x60, kitchen-equipped hall is available for reunions and other group activities when reservations are made by calling (406) 348-3812.

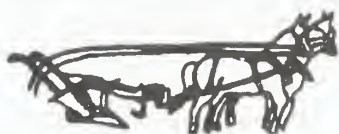
The celebration honors a hardy breed of pioneers who came on foot, by covered wagon, or by immigrant train to carve out a fertile valley in a land of sagebrush and greasewood.



The Eighth Annual Threshing Bee will be Aug. 17-18, next to the MSU Experiment Station, approximately 15 miles east of Billings on U.S. Highway 312 between Huntley and Worden. Presented by the South Central Montana Antique Tractor and Machinery Association, the show will feature steam and gas threshing, a stationary engine display, tractor and horse plowing, hay baling, working saw mill and shingle mill, old-time blacksmith shop, tractor pull, arts, crafts and musical entertainment, concessions and a Thresher's Lunch. Exhibitors are welcome. For information, call 406-967-6687 or 406-698-7807.

Photo courtesy of Huntley Project Museum

Huntley Project Museum at Osborn Park



"A thousand smiles and a million memories await you"

Open 9-4 May - Sept.

3 miles east of Huntley or 12 miles west of Pompeys Pillar Landmark on U.S. Hiway 312

Special Tours by Appointment

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Worden, MT 59088

Phone: (406) 967-2680

Fireworks

HOMESTEADER DAYS

Parade

Evening Show

Presented by

Contests

Huntley Project Lions & Lionesses

- Kiddie Rides
- Crafts Show
- Sand Volleyball

**July
20 - 21**

- Food Concessions
- Game Concessions
- Beer Garden



3 miles east of Huntley
20 miles east of Billings
on Highway 312



Homesteader Days activities are designed for all ages, just as they were in early history. They include kiddie rides, parades, booths, crafts, bingo, homesteader games, antique machinery, a floor show and church services. There is a homesteader dinner and a beer garden, too.

The admission is just one dollar for adults and children 11 and older. All younger children are admitted free.

The Huntley Project

Museum of Irrigated Agriculture

The Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture is located in the townsite of the early-day town called Osborn. The collection is southern Montana's most outstanding museum of irrigated agriculture artifacts, with over 5,000 items displayed. It is the most complete museum of beet, small grain and early-day machinery, much of which has been restored to original condition and painted with authentic colors.

The museum interprets the preserva-

tion, restoration and display of the machinery, buildings and other homesteader implements, which were used by settlers of the irrigation project area.

A Million Memories

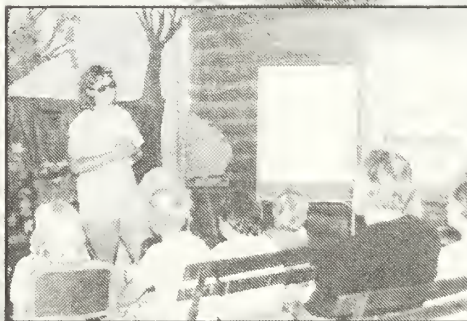
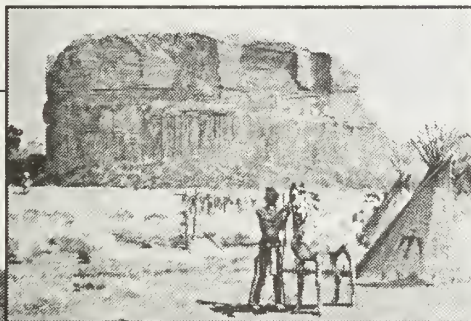
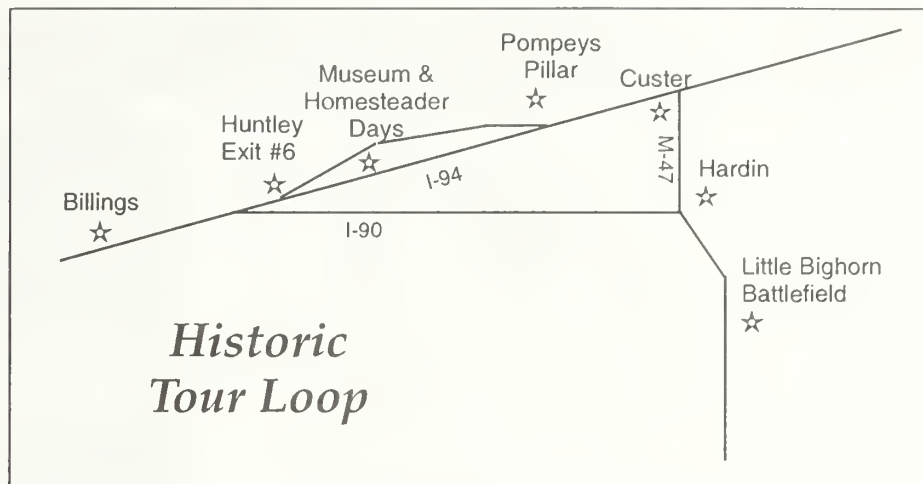
The slogan of the museum is inviting in itself: "A thousand smiles and a million memories await you." And to that, the community adds a warm invitation to take a short diversion off the interstate into the world and tools

of our agricultural heritage.

Readers interested in the details about Huntley Irrigation Project, "Old Huntley" and the Huntley Project Museum may write to: Huntley Project Museum, c/o Marvin Balzer, 2504 N. 12th Rd., Worden, MT 59088-2104

1996 Activities in Huntley

Homesteader Days.....July 20-21
Threshing Bee.....August 17-18



'Clark Day' is celebrated each year at Pompeys Pillar, the sandstone butte 22 miles east of Huntley where Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 carved his name. Canoes paddling to the site, food, entertainment, and interpretive activities are scheduled for Sunday, July 28 in 1996.

Gloria Wester Photos

Uptown *Advantage* in Downtown *Billings*

George Henry's Restaurant

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Exceptional Homemade Desserts

Beer & Wine 404 North 30th Street Banquet Facilities
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AL'S BOOTERY

And Repair Shop

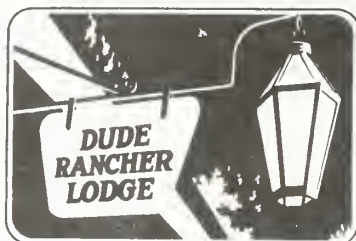
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9 Blocks East of the Sheraton

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and Images of the Yellowstone Valley*

**Summer Outreach Program
Museum Store
Exhibits**

TUES-SAT: 10 AM-5 PM
SUNDAY: 1 PM-5 PM
CLOSED MONDAY &
HOLIDAYS
FREE ADMISSION
(406) 256-6809



2822 Montana Avenue, Billings, MT 59101



Don't miss the Visitor Center just off exit 450 for information about Billings and area attractions. In front of the center is a heroic size monument commemorating the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989. The bronze is a cowboy on a horse, herding two longhorn steers. Bring your camera for your photo beside the monument. For a complete Billings calendar of events, write or call the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 31177, Billings, MT 59107. (406) 245-4111 or 1-800-735-2635.



Billings is where Montana Territory began, and where your historical and cultural "Passport" to the legendary West begins. Use Billings as a central point to the best western attractions, events, hospitality, shopping and cuisine.

Regional accommodations specialize

in making the road-weary traveler feel welcome and safe. Put up your feet. Kick back. And relax at one of the many and varied hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, resorts and historic lodges in and around Billings.

Once you've had a chance to unwind, head downtown and pick up some genuine cowboy boots and a customized

cowboy hat. Then, look for a matching belt buckle and leather-tooled belt in one of the hundreds of great west-end shops. Check out the variety in the Heights area retail stores on your way to enjoy the spectacular beauty atop Billings' rimrocks.

In between, kick up your heels and explore the "Magic City," founded in 1882 by the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Frederick Billings. Catch the latest entertainment options at one of the special art shows, plays, exhibits or movies on tap at venues throughout Montana's largest city.

For the Palate

And then savor the best of Billings cuisine at some of the many restaurants offering sophisticated menus and mouth-watering selections. Whether your appetite yearns for alfresco dining, lively entrees, or palate-pleasing gourmet delights, you're in the right place to indulge in a variety of unique western dining experiences.

We'll Get You There

A rib-jarring ride in a creaking stagecoach or saddle-sore bounces on horseback were the only means of transportation when the West was won a



The skyline of the "Magic City." Billings offers big city comforts as a gateway city to Montana and the Old West.



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century ago. Today, Billings is a modern, major thoroughfare for air, interstate, and highway travel. Billings Logan International Airport is a regional hub for major carriers and is also serviced by a number of regional airlines. This state-of-the-art facility offers 40 daily flights with worldwide connections.

The interstate highway system serves Billings from the south, east and west via I-90 and I-94. Major passenger, charter and package bus lines also serve the area with numerous daily arrivals and departures.

Information, Please

Your information center to attractions in Billings, the region and the state is the Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 815 South 27th Street off I-90 Exit 450 (406) 252-4016 or 1-800-735-2635. Visitors are welcomed by the Cattle Drive monument, standing in tribute to the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989. Brochures, information, and friendly assistance await you. They are your information passport to the West!

Attractions and Points of Interest

Billings is the gateway to our nation's legendary western heritage in many ways. Over a century of cowboys, cowgirls, Indians, rustlers and Custer still dominate the galleries, museums, cabins, mansions and historic sites within the "Magic City."

Walk through a period when the untamed Yellowstone River Valley was in her infancy. Places, people and images of the valley from 1880-1940 showcase an interactive museum in the turn-of-the-century Western Heritage



And they're off! Pari-mutuel betting at MetraPark Fairgrounds rings in with thundering hooves and lightning pay-offs beginning in August. Simulcast horse racing at the Fairgrounds Turf Club carries horse racing excitement throughout the rest of the year.

Photo courtesy of MontanaFair

Center. At 2822 Montana Ave., (406) 256-6809. Free.

Vital to the valley's early growth were the familiar chugging, smoke-belching steam engines. The last to operate in Billings overlooks the city it helped create at the **Peter Yegen, Jr. Yellowstone County Museum.** Authentic cowboy and Indian artifacts and more are part of this huge collection. Located at Logan International Airport, (406) 256-6811. Free.

The railroad brought prosperity to Billings, and prosperity brought Preston B. Moss. In 1901, architect H.J. Hardenbergh (designer of the Waldorf-Astoria and Park Plaza Hotel in New York City) erected the elegant Moss

estate. The three-story **Moss Mansion** remains authentically furnished and open year-round for hourly tours. At 914 Division Street, (406) 256-5100. Admission charged.

Following the completion of the Moss Mansion, **The Castle** was constructed to mirror Chicago's elite Potter Palmer mansion. The medieval-looking structure remains a private home, although the historic carriage house is now a gift shop and the old livery stable is a restaurant. At 622 North 29th St.

Finding solace in his small rustic cabin, famed Billings artist J.K. Ralston put the West on canvas. His restored home and studio, the **J.K. Ralston Cabin**, is on display on the north end of



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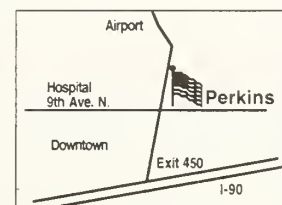
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Billings Phone (406) 656-6640



North 27th St. Exit 450
• 2 miles North of I-90 •
Billings Phone (406) 248-8320



The Downtown Billings Strawberry Festival in June is one of the many art and craft fairs that draw thousands of people to Billings.

Downtown Billings Association Photo

the Rocky Mountain College campus. The studio is open to visitors on weekends June-Aug. 12-4. Phone 254-0959.

The rugged embrace of the Rimrocks, surrounding Billings, branded this area since time began. Billings' history unfolds along the Black Otter Trail winding along this elevated sandstone skyline. The trail is named for a Crow Indian chief who was buried here after his death at the hands of a Sioux war party. The scenic trail begins at US 10 in east Billings.

Rugged as the Rimrocks enclosing their tombstones, were the outlaws, marshals and townsfolk of Coulson, who haunt Boothill Cemetery along

Black Otter Trail. Violence and death were common to the residents of this 1800s Old West town, and to the Army scout, Muggins Taylor, who carried the news of Custer's defeat to the world. He was buried here after a shoot-out.

Campaigns to force Native Americans onto reservations increased following Custer's defeat. Frontiersman and scout, "Yellowstone" Kelly, was called upon to guide the Army on its quest. Yellowstone Kelly's grave, west of Boothill, is shadowed by five majestic mountain ranges—the Bighorns, Pryors, Beartooths, Crazyes and Snowies.

Indian warriors were slowly defeat-

ed not only by the Army, but by a white man's disease—smallpox. **Sacrifice Cliff**, part of the Rimrocks, located just south of the Yellowstone River and opposite Boothill, was the site of a Crow village. Legend tells that upon a war party's return, young braves found the village decimated by smallpox. Warriors blindfolded their ponies and rode them over the cliff to appease the gods and halt the epidemic.

Walk in their steps. They were the most famous explorers in American history. Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark. **Pompeys Pillar** bears the only remaining physical evidence along the trail of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Captain Clark carved "Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806." Open Memorial Day through first Sunday in October. 28 miles east of Billings; I-94 Exit 23.

Before the white man, before the Crow Indian, and long before the buffalo, the western Indian hunted the woolly mammoth, and documented the hunt with cave paintings. Over 4,500 years ago, **Pictograph Caves State Park** was home to these Indians. Paintings are still visible. Go southeast of Billings on I-90; take Lockwood Exit 452; follow signs 7 miles. Self-guided, handicap access trail with accompany-

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Promoting the Region's Livestock Industry

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ing brochure available at site. Nominal park fee.

Artists have continued to adorn the West. You can view a sample of the contributions of modern artists along the **Avenue of Sculptures**. Along 27th Street, from Exit 450 to the airport. In order from south to north: Cattle Drive Monument at the Visitor Center; "The Trough" in front of Norwest Bank, 175 N. 27th; Sheriff Webb memorial marker, courthouse lawn corner, 2nd Ave. N. and N. 27th; Reineking kinetic sculpture at Yellowstone Art Center, 4th Ave. N. and N. 27th; Range Rider of the Yellowstone equestrian statue in memory of actor, William Hart, in front of the airport.

Pioneer life surrounds you at **Oscar's Dreamland**. Ride the historic train or walk the streets through Pioneer Town and learn the story of the early day agriculture. See the world's largest private collection of farm machinery. May-Oct., I-90 Exit 446; west on Frontage Road; one mile south of Market Basket. (406) 656-0966 May - Oct. or (406) 245-4598 year round. Admission.

If you listen closely, you can hear the past. It's the horses' hooves clicking on the cobblestones underneath the pave-

ment in **Billings Historic District**, the preserved business district of early-day Montana Ave., N. 22nd Street to N. 26th Street downtown.

Arts and Entertainment

Feel the Montana spirit reverberate through the floorboards and theater stage. Art, music, dancing, plays, cultural events, and more are waiting. Grab your boots and hit the Billings streets for some fun!

Historic and contemporary art forms from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists dominate rotating exhibits at the **Yellowstone Art Center**. The Will James collection is part of the permanent collection. Success requires

expansion. The art center will close from spring 1996 through fall 1997 for construction. At 401 North 27th St. downtown. (406) 256-6804.

Broadway musicals, ballet, the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, and celebrity musicians on tour perform at the **Alberta Bair Theater**, the largest performing arts theater between Minneapolis and Spokane. At Broadway and 3rd Ave. North downtown. Tickets (406) 256-6052.

Competitive auditions bring the best of local talent to the stage for works ranging from Shakespeare to Neil Simon and summer repertory at

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Restaurant - Fine Dining
Lounge - Live Music
Casino - Great Spirits

The Bungalow is the most unique restaurant, lounge, and casino facility in the Billings area. Located at 925 South 27th Street, next to the new Hojo Inn Hotel.

Stop in and try Billings Newest HOT SPOT!!



The Big Sky State Games, held in Billings in July, draw athletes in every thinkable sports competition to the city for a weekend of challenge and endurance.

Julie Simser Photo

Billings Studio Theatre. Located mid-town at 1500 Rimrock Road, (406) 248-1141.

Acres of entertainment thrill thou-

sands every year at **MetraPark**. The modern concert, trade show and rodeo arena is surrounded by the fairgrounds, pari-mutuel horse-race track

and superbarn complex. A new Expo Center and Pavilion overlook a relaxing lake park. This is a stellar entertainment complex. MetraPark is home of the state's largest event—MontanaFair. Where the river meets the rims. (406) 256-2400 or 1-800-366-8538.

Montana's only wildlife park is nestled in 70 acres of lush Montana green. Follow Canyon Creek through ZooMontana's winding nature trail. Then stop and watch the otters play as you discover the native and exotic animals in their natural habitats. Walk the tree-lined path across the bridge to the Siberian Tiger habitat. Children will enjoy the turn-of-the-century Montana homestead petting zoo in a farm and ranch setting. April 15-Oct. 15, 10-5 daily, winter 11-4 weekends. Exit 446; west on Frontage Road to Shiloh Road. (406) 652-8100. Nominal admission.

Fresh Air Recreation

Whether you're looking for broncbusting rodeo action or the relaxation of fishing or hunting, you'll be in good company around Billings. Teddy Roosevelt, Calamity Jane and Charles Lindberg sought refuge and recreation throughout the Billings area.

Watch Montana's wildlife by grabbing your binoculars and heading to the plains or hiking in the mountains that encapture Billings. Or, grab a rodeo bench to watch the toughest cowboys and cowgirls aboard the meanest and biggest bulls and brons.

Try the colorful water adventure—wind surfing. At **Lake Elmo State Park**, your instructor will set you asail. Or float your cares away in your non-motorized or electrically propelled

**FREE
ADMISSION**

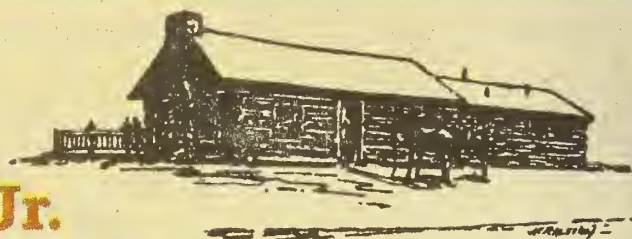
Peter Yegen, Jr. Yellowstone County Museum

5,000 square feet of display area, Western artifacts on permanent display
Authentic Chuck Wagon, Native American Artifacts
Pioneer Tools, Fire Arms, Paintings, Photographs

HOURS:

Mon. - Fri. 10:30 - 5:00
Sun. 2:00 - 5:00

Logan International Airport
Billings, Montana
(406) 256-6811



boat. Feet-on-the-ground fishermen cast tackle into the man made lake, that channel catfish, crappie, yellow perch and large mouth bass now call theirs. Roger's Pier on the south side of the lake provides deeper access. Hikers and bird watchers enjoy the .7 mile trail, complete with benches for a pause to relax. Lifeguards supervise the wide beach area where picnickers savor shady feasts. In winter, enjoy cross country skiing. Heights Main Street to Pemberton Lane; west to the lake. Nominal park fee.

Trails for feet and hooves wind a labyrinth through Riverfront Park where fresh air enthusiasts have a year-round free access to fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, or a simple picnic. Non-motorized boats float across fishing waters, and horseback riders exercise their steeds on the equestrian trails. I-90 Exit 447; south on South Billings Boulevard.

If your horses have come on vacation with you, the Trailin' Around Trail Ride Club invites you to join their rides May 4, 11, 18 and 31, June 1, 2, and 22, July 4-7, 13 and 20, August 2-4, and September 6-8. Call (406) 373-6755 or 373-5977.

You'll want to avoid the water at the

numerous public golf courses in Billings! Tee off at these: Circle Inn Golf Links (9, par 3) 248-4202; Lake Hills Golf Club (18) 252-9244; Par 3 Exchange City Golf Course, 652-2553; or Peter Yegen, Jr. Golf Club (18) 656-8099. Two private courses allow limited public play: Briarwood Country Club (18) 248-2702; and Pryor Creek Golf Course (27) 256-0626. Call for tee times.

Mustard up a hot dog and buy a sack of peanuts to settle in for the Cincinnati Red's Pioneer League farm team to throw the first pitch. The Billings Mustangs play at Cobb Field at 9th Ave. North and North 27th Street. (406) 252-1241.

Rev up your engines and head to Magic City Speedway, 5 miles east of Billings on Highway 10 E. where the checkered flag starts the action on summer nights. Admission. The brand new MotorSports Park at mile marker 16 on Highway 87 to Roundup is christening its first season this year. For event dates call 248-9147.

Pick your favorite thoroughbred, and lay a wager on your favorite jockey. Thundering hooves fly from the starting gate for Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing action at MetraPark fairgrounds in



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Billings, Montana

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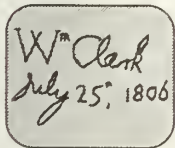
Welcome! Visitors Guide



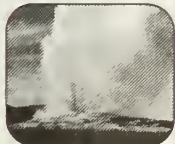
Billings



Battlefield



**Tour
Loops**



The Park

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OSCAR'S DREAMLAND Yesteryear Museum

Guided Tours Daily

Take a walking tour through the historic displays or relax & view the museum on video in the comfort of the air conditioned Hospitality Room.

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YOU WILL SEE

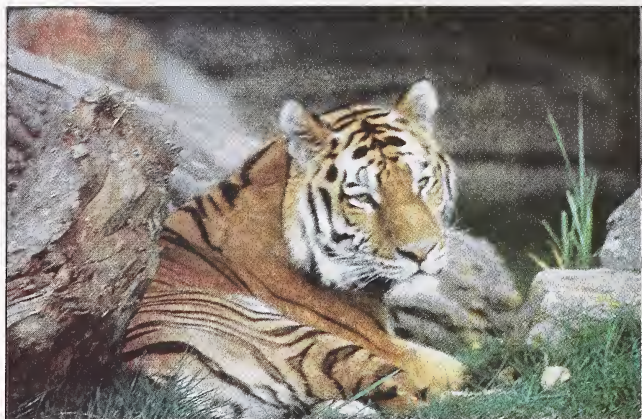
- 40 Steam Traction Engines
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Oscar's Hall of Fame Collection

1900'S PIONEER TOWN

Take South Frontage Road
Between Laurel & Billings, Turn
South at Shiloh & Follow Signs.

(406) 656-0966



Tiger, Tiger, burning bright! The new tiger habitat at ZooMontana west of Billings is the home of Siberian tigers, a male and a female. A bright addition to the development, the tigers join an otter exhibit, a sensory garden, and a homestead petting zoo.

Jay F. Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. Photo

August and September. MetraPark hosts simulcast racing in the winter.

Making It Eventful

Strawberry Festival, June 8—Over 25 food vendors, all with something strawberry, along with over 75 arts and crafts vendors block off four city blocks

to celebrate this scrumptious summertime delight. Enjoy the entertainment, live music on two stages and children's activities. Downtown Billings Association is sponsor, 115 North Broadway, Suite 300, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 259-5454.

Western Days, June 14-15—This 50-year old celebration of our western heritage is hosted by the Billings Jaycees. The event begins with a downtown barbecue, then features a big parade, children's activities, gunfights and a tourist "kidnapping." A street dance, spurred by country-western music is held in the evening. Call the Billings Chamber for more information, (406) 245-4111 or 1-800-735-2635.

ZooGrass Festival, June 30—Top name musical acts perform under Montana's Big Sky to benefit ZooMontana. ZooMontana, P.O. Box 80905, Billings, MT 59108-0905, (406) 652-8100.

Big Sky State Games, July 12-14—Amateur athletes from 250 Montana cities and towns participate in the largest multi-sport event in the state. Ten thousand athletes vie for state victories in archery, basketball, shooting, softball, wrestling, wind surfing and a number of other events. For details call (406) 255-7426 or write: Big Sky State Games, P.O. Box 2318, Billings, MT 59103.

Big Skyfest, Aug. 1-4—Sixty hot air balloons will paint the sky in the biggest hot air balloon event in the Northwest. It kicks off with a parade Thursday, displays at Amend Park (off

History Surrounds Us



Western Heritage Center
2822 Montana Avenue
See Page 113



Miss Mansion
914 Division Street
See Page 113

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Montana Fair, Aug. 10-17—Montana's largest statewide event features a carnival, top name country-western music performers, rodeos, horse racing, midway acts, and more. MetraPark, P.O. Box 2514, Billings, MT 59103, (406) 256-2400 or 1-800-366-8538.

A Taste of Billings, Aug. 21—Experience the best of Montana as you dine and dance in the streets of downtown Billings. Last year 600 people enjoyed exquisite food, live music, and dancing. The finest dining establishments are represented. Cost: \$15-\$30 a person. Reservations required. Sponsored by Downtown Billings Association, 115 North Broadway, Suite 300, Billings, MT 59101, (406) 259-5454.

NILE Stock Show and Rodeo, Oct. 12-19—The Northern International Livestock Show and PRCA Rodeo celebrates its 29th anniversary in 1996. Western excitement centers around world-class rodeo action Oct. 15-19, entertainment, livestock and trade shows. Call (406) 256-2495.

Events in Billings 1996

April: NILE (Northern International Livestock Exposition) Bull Riders Invitational, MetraPark Arena 5-6
Lost in Yonkers,
Billings Studio Theatre 19-28
Billings Symphony Pops Concert with the King Singers,
Alberta Bair Theater 20
Gem and Mineral Show,
MetraPark 20-21
Antique & Collectible Extravaganza,
Shrine Auditorium 20-21
Wildlife/Earth Fair for Kids,
ZooMontana 20-21
The School for Wives, Alberta Bair Theater 25
Mac Frampton, Alberta Bair Theater 26
Sesame Street's Bob McGrath, Alberta Bair Theater 27
40th Anniversary Show of Barbershop Harmony Society, Lincoln Center 27
Peaks to Prairie Triathlon (run, bike, canoe) from Red Lodge to Billings 28
May: Bear Crossing Art & Craft Show, Shrine Auditorium 1-4
Lost in Yonkers,
Billings Studio Theatre 2-4

Mayfair, Holiday Inn 3-4
Moss Mansion Country Fair, Mansion Grounds 4
Antique Flea Market & Sports Card Show, Boys & Girls Club 4-5
Wine Festival,
MSU-Billings Campus 10-11
Montana Women's Run, Downtown 11
Royal Lipizzan Stallions,
MetraPark 16-17
May Clay Day, Grandview Park 18
Heart & Soul Run, Downtown 18
Ralph Sutton Trio,
Alberta Bair Theater 25
State H.S. Track Meet, MetraPark 25
Funny Girl, Billings Studio Theatre 31

Montana Brew Fest, Shrine Auditorium, 4-10 p.m. 31
June: Cincinnati Reds Farm Club—the Billings Mustangs—Begin Season, Cobb Field June-Aug.
Montana Brew Fest, Shrine Auditorium, 11-8 p.m. 1
Funny Girl, Billings Studio Theatre 1-15
Strawberry Festival, Downtown Billings 8
Festival of Cultures, Rocky Mountain College 9
Western Days BBQ, Street Dance, Parade, Downtown 14-15
Great Race Parade, Downtown 19



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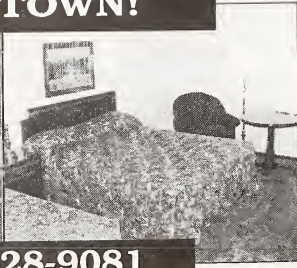
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Big Skyfest was launched in Billings in 1995 and drew crowds and applause from high and low. Besides the early morning and afternoon flights, a full schedule of entertainment and activities delight grounded guests. The Big Skyfest is August 1-4 in 1996.

Cliff Gerrells Photo

ZooGrass Festival Multiple Bands Concert, MetraPark Fairgrounds 23
 Gun Show, MetraPark.....27-30
 Symphony Concert in the Park, Pioneer Park.....30
July: Food Fair, Downtown.....10
 Big Sky State Games 12-14
 Family Motor Coach, MetraPark 17-21
 World Champions on Ice, MetraPark ..19
 Yellowstone Art Center Summerfair, RMC Campus 20-21
 Great American Motorcycle Hill Climb 27-28
 Clark Day at Pompeys Pillar 28
August: Big SkyFest Hot Air Balloons, I-90 Exit 447.....1-4
 Billings Symphony Concert and Fireworks at Big Skyfest Skyline Glow, I-90 Exit 447 2
 Robert Gray Band and Nicolette Larson Concert, Rocky Bowl.....3
 First Corps Army Band (100-Piece) Big SkyFest Performance, I-90 Exit 447.....4
 Hispanic Fiesta 3-4
 Food Fair, Downtown 10
 MontanaFair—Carnival, Horse Races, Stars, Rodeos, Exhibits, Cattle Shows,

MetraPark.....10-17
 Horse Racing with Pari-Mutuel Betting, MetraPark.....16-18, 23-25, 30-31
 Taste of Billings, Downtown 21
 Antique Show, MetraPark 23-25
September: Home Improvement Show, MetraPark.....6-8
 Business Expo, MetraPark 11-12
 Horse Racing with Pari-Mutuel Betting, MetraPark.....1, 6-8, 13-15, 20-22
 Woodcarvers Show, Elk's Lodge.....27-29
 Antique and Collectible Extravaganza, Shrine Auditorium.....28-29
October: Antique Flea Market & Sports Card Show, Boys & Girls Club 5-6
 J. K. Ralston Art Auction, Sheraton Hotel.....11
 NILE (Northern International Livestock Exposition) Stock Show and Exhibits, MetraPark.....12-19
 NILE Rodeo, MetraPark.....15-19
 Big Sky Polka Fest, Elks Lodge.....13-14
November: Market Place Magic, MetraPark.....1-3
 Antique Show and Sale, MetraPark ..8-10
 Holiday Food Show, Holiday Inn Trade Center.....23-24

December: Christmas Stroll, downtown 6
 1997

Winter Season: Billings Bulls Hockey Team Games

February: National Rodeo Association Finals, MetraPark 1-3

State All-Class State Wrestling Tourney, MetraPark.....8-9

Montana Agri-Trade Exposition, MetraPark 3rd Weekend

March: Yellowstone Art Center 29th Annual Art Auction 1

Home Improvement Show, MetraPark 1st Weekend

Go Show Auto Display, MetraPark 3rd Weekend

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Downtown...17

Montana Outdoor Recreation Exposition, MetraPark.....4th Weekend

Page 122 Photo — Stop and smell the flowers. Get away from it all right in Montana's largest city. Take a walk along the trails at Riverfront Park. Spend some time watching the antics of the otters at ZooMontana. Or go windsurfing, picnicking, or swimming at Lake Elmo State Park.

Background photo by Donna Delp

Billings... Cultural Center of Montana

The Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, Billings' musical showpiece, is at the apex of the varieties of music Billings offers. Classical, jazz, Dixieland, rock, bluegrass—all the notes and rhythms keep Billings humming.



Billings Symphony Orchestra

The Yellowstone Art Center, at 401 North 27th St. in Billings—(406) 256-6804—is the foremost contemporary art museum in the region and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The Will James collection is one of its permanent collections. Success has caused a need for expansion. The art center is currently closed for construction. Pictured here is "Machine Heart" by John Buck, a 1993 acrylic on cottonwood, a part of the permanent collection. (Purchase funded by Miriam Sample.)



"Evita" at the Alberta Bair Theater

Performances of all forms of dance, music and theater are a regular part of the Billings entertainment scene. The Alberta Bair Theater, Billings Studio Theatre, the historic Babcock Theatre, the colleges, dinner theaters, and MetraPark combine to provide a continuous calendar of performing arts for Billings natives and visitors. Dates, titles, and ticket information are available through each facility, or contact the ABT ticket office (406) 256-6052.

The Moss Mansion, 914 Division Street, is a beautiful historic home. As you enter the elegant mahogany entrance, you are transported to turn-of-the-century Billings as the wealthy Preston B. Moss family

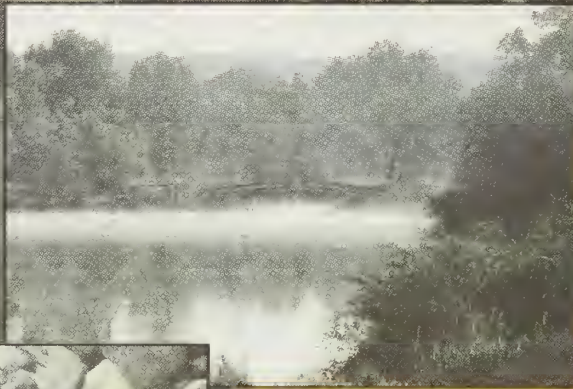
lived in it. The Moss Mansion is open to the public. Days the mansion is open and hours for tours change seasonally. Call (406) 256-5100 for arrangements and rates. Special group scheduling and rates.



"Machine Heart" at Art Center



Inside the Moss Mansion





A life-size metal statue of Chief Joseph stands watch in Laurel's Firemen's Park. The statue was a state Centennial project of the Laurel Women in Business and was sculpted by local artist, Gary Temple. The dedication of the statue was held on August 5, 1989, to coincide with the annual Appaloosa Horse Club's Chief Joseph Trail Ride. The Canyon Creek Battlefield marker 7 miles north of Laurel commemorates the battle between the Nez Perce tribe and the U.S. Cavalry, led by General Sturgis. A self-guided interpretive development is planned at this site.

Milt Wester Photo



Laurel is the crossroads to Yellowstone Park and Custer Country. Highway 212 leads to the Cody (east) and Cooke City (north-east) entrances of the park. I-90 is the route to the Gardiner (north) and West Yellowstone (west) entrances. Stop at the Chamber of Commerce office, located at the Laurel Outlook newspaper building, 415 East Main, for directions and information.

Stay Overnight

Excellent motel and hotel accommodations are available in Laurel. There is

a variety of restaurants and drive-ins. If you like to camp or you have an RV, Riverside Park, on the banks of the Yellowstone River, has facilities for 100 campers. Camping is \$15 per night, for the seven spots with hook-ups for water and lights. Spots without hook-ups are \$7.50 per night. Showers are available. For reservations call (406) 628-2491. Horseshoe pits, room for volleyball, ample fishing access and a boat ramp make the camping ideal.

For campers, Laurel's Cenex Convenience Center, just off the interstate

at exit 434, has a free RV dump station. **Hunt, Fish, and Ski**

Within minutes of Laurel are some of Montana's best trout streams and lakes. Hunting near Laurel is also excellent. Waterfowl, upland game and big game are plentiful, including pheasants, ducks, mallards, geese, whitetail and mule deer.

Forty-five minutes to the south is one of the best spots in the west to ski — Red Lodge. Cooney Dam, 35 miles southwest, provides recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing and water skiing.

Enjoy Rodeo All Year!

Rodeos and roping events are held at the Horse Palace Equestrian Center at East Laurel Exit 437 all year. Admission prices fit the family budget. Events are scheduled nearly every day from November through April. For a complete schedule, write to Horse Palace, 7215 Mossmain Drive, Billings, MT 59106, phone (406) 628-2049.

Fourth of July Events

Be in Laurel on the Fourth of July to see the state's largest, most spectacular fireworks display! You won't believe that this extravaganza is free. But it is!

The 4th of July is a fun-filled celebration in Laurel. Activities begin the night before on July 3 with the Jaycee Street Dance. The morning of the 4th finds the Jaycees still going strong—cooking pancakes and sausage for breakfast.

A Kiddie Parade is next on the list of activities, and the Laurel 4th of July Parade follows shortly after. Bands, Shrine units, floats, lots of horses and antique cars combine for the annual event sponsored by the Laurel Chamber of Commerce.

After the parade, Thomson Park, 1/2 mile north of downtown, is the place for lots of food and fun. Picnics and an American Legion International Baseball Tournament make the 4th a real family fun time.

The celebration lights up the sky at dusk when the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department presents a dazzling fireworks display on the ground and in the air. Music accompanies the display, making hearts swell and spirits soar.

Swimming, Sports, Services

If a cool dip in the pool is what you need, the municipal swimming pool is located right in the center of the action at Thomson Park, along with tennis courts, picnic tables, playground equipment, softball fields and volleyball areas.



Alec Popp is a popular performer at the Laurel Herbstfest, Laurel's ethnic German festival.

Canyon Creek Battlefield

The Nez Perce Indians, led by Chief Joseph, fought a rear-guard action at a site 7 miles north of Laurel at Canyon Creek. While the rest of the band escaped up the canyon, sharp shooters hidden in the canyon wall kept the cavalry at bay.

The Friends of Canyon Creek Battlefield, Inc. of Laurel is working to preserve and interpret the site. The group is selling bronze replicas of a firearm from the battle found at the site in order to help fund this preservation development. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for further details. The battlefield is in the National Park Trails System.

"Home of the Herbstfest"

Laurel is the "Home of the Herbstfest." The festival is patterned after the German Oktoberfest held in Munich, Germany. Many Laurel citizens are of German descent, and they make the Laurel Herbstfest the most authentic German festival in the state. This community event offers a unique type of entertainment which has pleased thousands of people each year.

Make plans to attend this festival the fourth weekend in September. A jam session is held Friday night with the stars who will entertain at the festival.

Ticket prices for the entire weekend are \$12 for adults at the gate, or \$10 in advance. Students pay \$2 at the gate per day. Call (406) 628-8306 to place an order. It's family entertainment at its best. Enjoy festive music and dancing. Sample German, American, and other specialty foods.

Laurel Brilliant at Christmas

Laurel has an outstanding winter event, "A Christmas to Remember." The entire business community places lights on their store fronts and on street

fixtures lining Main Street. Firemen's Park in downtown Laurel is the scene of "Santa's Workshop," where several motorized elves work busily on the toys that Santa will distribute Christmas Eve. The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department erects the display annually. Arcing above the street, next to Santa's workshop, is Santa himself, led by his eight reindeer. Brilliantly lighted, the display, provided by the Laurel Chamber of Commerce, is the largest Santa ornament in the state.

Atop the hill to the north is Montana's Centennial-sanctioned Christmas house. Another Laurel resident's home was selected and featured as one of the best decorated homes in the United States by USA Today. Drive through Laurel in December. The whole town joins in to make it a true Christmas jewel.

On the first weekend in December, a Parade of Lights down First Avenue at 5 p.m. features carolers carrying lights. A Christmas Cantata, and business open house activities throughout the day add to the fun on Dec. 1, 1996, in Laurel. Santa Claus arrives at 5:15 at the park.

1996 Events in Laurel

July: American Legion Baseball Tournament.....	2-4
July: Street Dance	3
Largest Free Fireworks Display in Montana, Jaycees Pancake Breakfast, Kids' Parade, Laurel Chamber of Commerce Grand Parade	4
Yellowstone River Boat Float	5-7
Annual "Poker" Rod Run, old car and hot rod event	20
Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, 2:00 & 5:00	21
September: Herbstfest	27-29
Music, Arts, and Crafts in Firemen's Park Downtown; Jam Session, Bierstube Dance 8 p.m.	27
Herbstfest Run 8 a.m.; Parade 10:30 a.m.	28
Festhalle Activities	27-29
28th	11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
29th	12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.
October: Annual Praise Festival	Second Sunday
December: 11th Annual Christmas to Remember festival. Parade of Lights 5:00 p.m.	1
Alumni Basketball Tournament	21-24

This member organization helps support tourism information for the Custer Country region:

Laurel Herbstfest



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Biggest fireworks display in the state (Photo by Larry Mayer)

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Pryor Range Home To Wild Horse Herd



Gary Leppart Photo

The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range straddles the Montana-Wyoming border about 13 miles north of Lovell, Wyoming, adjacent to the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Created in 1968 by order of the Secretary of the Interior, it is the first of three wild horse ranges in the nation.

A herd totaling about one hundred horses may be spotted in various locations of the Pryor Mountains set aside as wild horse range. The range is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The wild horses of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range are unique. Some experts state that the wild horses have been in the Pryor Mountains nearly a hundred years.

The wild horses roam over their range in bands from two

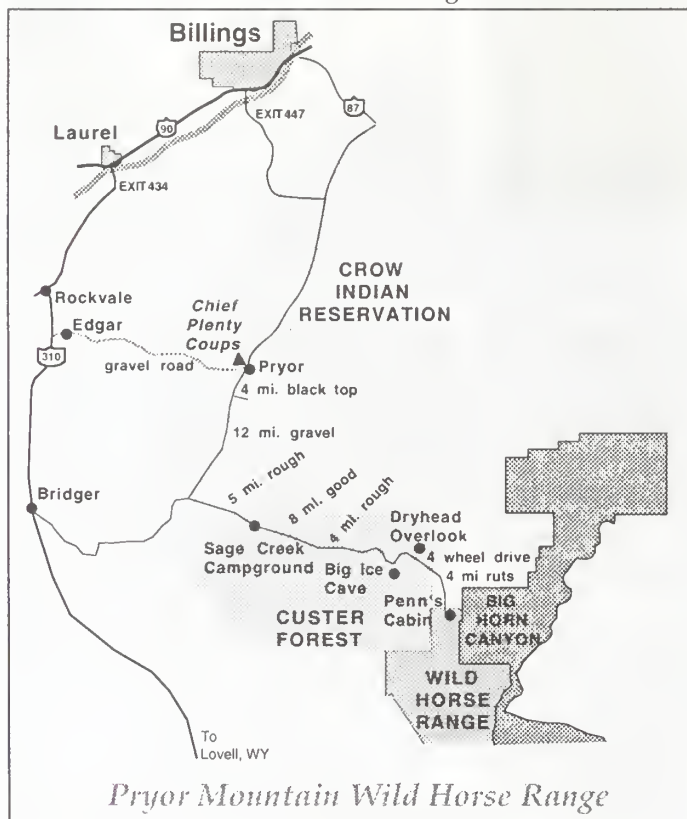
or three up to fifteen head. Usually these bands are a stallion with his mares and colts, but there are also bands of young stallions without mares. As the snow clears from the top of the mountains in the spring, nearly all of the wild horses are drawn to the grass of the high meadows. When winter snows force them down from the mountaintops, the bands of horses will join those that stayed in the foothills and lowlands. Mares usually drop their foals during May. Soon afterward, the stallions challenge each other as they gather mares for their bands. This period is a time of wonderful photographic opportunities.

How to get to the Wild Horse Range

When you are traveling in Montana, the easiest access to the range is from Billings as a starting point. The journey is a total of 77 miles south of Billings on a variety of roadbeds, some of which are impassable when wet. Follow the map shown on this page. Two-wheel drive, low-profile vehicles are not recommended. Four-wheel drive vehicles are best. From Dryhead Overlook, particularly, the road is just a trail, and high clearance vehicles are needed. The horses can normally be seen in the four-mile stretch between Dryhead Overlook and Penn's Cabin.

Visitors traveling by passenger car to Montana through Lovell, Wyoming, may reach the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range by taking U.S. 14A for 2.4 miles east of Lovell. Here, turn north onto State Highway 37 and drive 25 miles on pavement to Barry's Landing. Along the way watch for wild horses and bighorn sheep. The view from the Devil's Canyon Overlook is spectacular.

For the more adventurous and those with 4-wheel drive vehicles, turn off State Highway 37 at the Crooked Creek Road. The turnoff is less than 1 mile south of the Bighorn Recreation Area boundary. Turn from the state highway and go 1.7 miles west. Turn right on the short, cottonwood-lined gravel road that goes north across Crooked Creek. At this junction a sign points left to Tillet/Burnt Timber Ridge and right to Sykes Ridge. Take the road to Sykes Ridge 2.5 miles and turn left (north) just before the road goes into the fish hatchery. The Wild Horse Range boundary sign is approximately 100 yards north. A second sign reads "Mystery Cave Road." Keep watching to spot the wild horses.





Plenty Coups

*Great Chief
Of the Crows
Gave His Home
To Be Used
By All People
In Friendship*

The Chief Plenty Coups Memorial is 35 miles south of Billings at Pryor. Take I-90 exit 445, then turn (south) on Hwy 416. Follow 416 south to the junction of Pryor Road. Turn south and follow the signs to one mile west of Pryor.

The park is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the visitor center/museum is open daily from May 1 to September 30. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. In addition to the museum is Chief Plenty Coups' homestead, the medicine spring and a memorial to his peace efforts and to the Crow Indians.

A spacious picnic area is fully developed with tables, grills, restrooms and drinking water. Camping is not allowed.

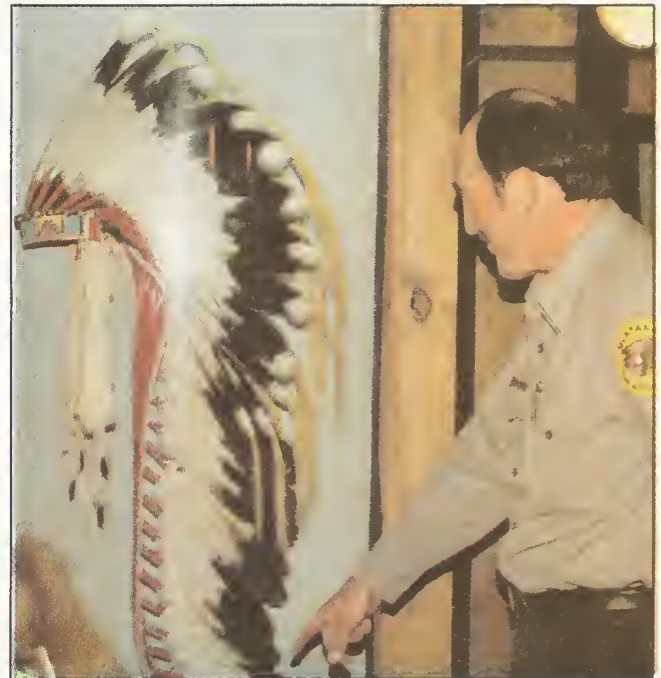
Entrance fees will be charged at the park and can be paid either upon entering the park or at the museum. Fees consist of an annual family passport for \$15.00, \$3.00 per carload, or a walk in fee of 50¢ per person.

A brochure is available at local information centers and at the site. The museum phone number is (406) 252-1289.



The Chief Plenty Coups complex was the site of a Quincentennial celebration in 1992, as a time of healing between Indian and non-Indian cultures. Programs involving youth were the focus of the event. Here Indians and non-Indians learn to set up a teepee.

Park Manager Rich Pittsley tells the story of this Crow Indian headdress. It is a replica of the original eagle feather headdress which the Crow leader placed on the casket of the unknown American soldier at Arlington Cemetery. The original remains on display in Arlington, Virginia.



Plenty Coups donated his home and surroundings to be used by all people in friendship. When he died in 1932, it became a park, eventually managed by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department. In his park dedication speech he said, "This park is not to be a memorial to me, but to the Crow Nation. It is given as a token of my friendship for all people both red and white."



Plenty Coups, Chief of the Crows. Photo taken in 1905.



Enjoy golfing in Custer Country from early spring through "Indian Summer." The unique log clubhouse pictured here is nestled in the pines of the very appropriately named Pine Ridge Golf Course in Roundup, Montana.

Gerald "Stub" Bartow photo

Visitors are always welcome on these golf courses in Custer Country. You're invited to stop and test your skills as well as enjoy the 19th hole. Well-groomed fairways and friendly people await you. Though our courses are rarely crowded, you'll still want to call for a tee-time.

1. **Baker.** Lakeview Country Club, 9 holes; club & cart rental; driving range; pro shop; putting green; some fast food snacks, beverage & cocktail service. 10% off green fees with this ad. South of Baker on Airport Road. No tee times needed during the week. (406) 778-3166

2. **Broadus.** Rolling Hills Golf Course, 3 miles west of Broadus at the Y. 9 holes; pro shop; driving range; putting green; food and beverage service; cart and club rental; no tee-time needed during the week. (406) 436-9984

3. **Miles City.** Town and Country Club, southwest edge of Miles City; 9 holes; cart and club rental; pro shop; driving range; practice putting greens; food and beverage services. Award winning professional staff. (406) 232-1500 *

4. **Colstrip.** The Ponderosa Butte Public Golf Course, 1 Long Drive, Club House & Pro shop. Very challenging 9 hole course. Excellent practice facilities. Located across the street from the high school. Food & beverage services. Rentals available. (406) 748-2700 *

5. **Hardin.** Fort Custer Golf Course, 3.5 miles north of Hardin; 9 holes; pro shop; cart rental; food & beverage services. (406) 665-2597

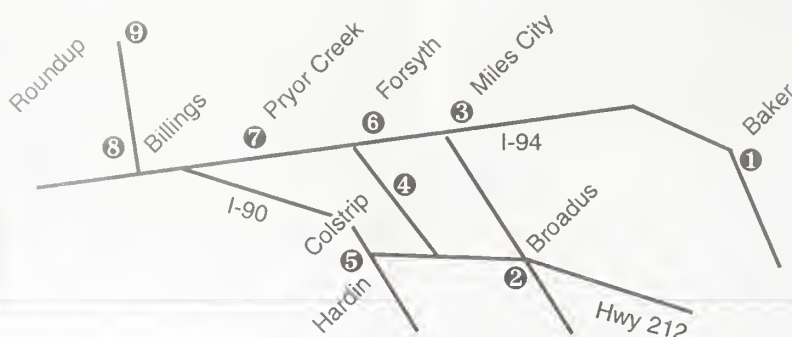
6. **Forsyth.** Forsyth Country Club and Golf Course, 3 miles west of Forsyth on Frontage Road off I-94 Exit 93; 9 holes; club and cart rentals; driving range; pro shop; dining and cocktails. (406) 356-7710

7. **Pryor Creek.** Pryor Creek Golf Club and Estates, 15 miles east of Billings, I-94 Exit 6 (Huntley exit); 27 holes; cart and club rental; pro shop; full driving range; food and beverage services. Private Club. Pro can extend invitation. (406) 256-0626 *

8. **Billings.** Lake Hills, 1930 Club House Way; 18 holes; cart rental; pro shop; driving range; dining and cocktails. (406) 252-9244 *

9. **Roundup.** Pine Ridge Golf Course, 9 holes; club and cart rental; driving range; pro shop; food and beverage service. Senior rates during the week. North of Roundup. (406) 323-2880

* PGA Pro on Staff



METRAPARK

MONTANA FAIR ARENA HORSE RACING



Located in Billings, Montana beside the Yellowstone River, MetraPark is a 150 acre site housing a 12,000 seat arena, fairgrounds and horse racing. It hosts concerts, trade shows, and rodeos among a large variety of events.

Parimutuel thoroughbred racing draws thousands to the track at MetraPark where over \$100,000 is bet daily. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 9 through September 22. Simulcast races weekends, Oct.-May.

Montana's largest event. MontanaFair features exhibits, livestock events, carnival, big name entertainment, rodeo, indoor motocross, free entertainment and parimutuel horse racing.

HORSE RACING

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

1996

Montana Fair

Aug. 10-17



OCTOBER 12-19, 1996

The Northern International Livestock Exposition is the region's largest livestock show & sale, pro rodeo, and Farm and Home Show.



FEBRUARY 13-15, 1997
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JAN. 31, FEB. 1-2
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